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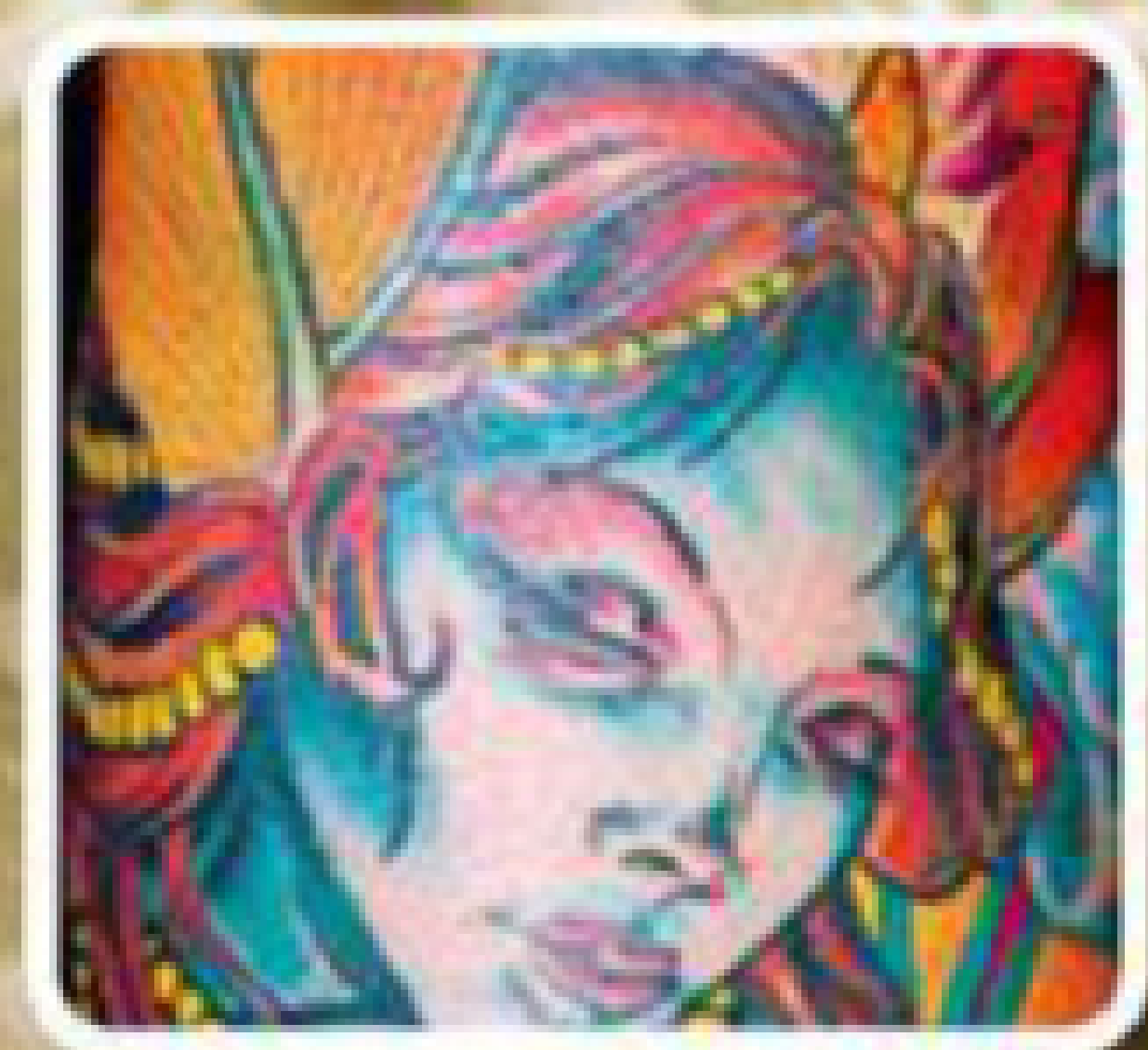
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FANTASY

**DANA
HELMUTH**

**JAPANESE
STYLE FROM
THE AMERICAN
EAST COAST**

**CRISPY
LENNOX**

**AN AUSTRALIAN
ARTIST BETWEEN
REALISTIC AND
NEO-TRADITIONAL**



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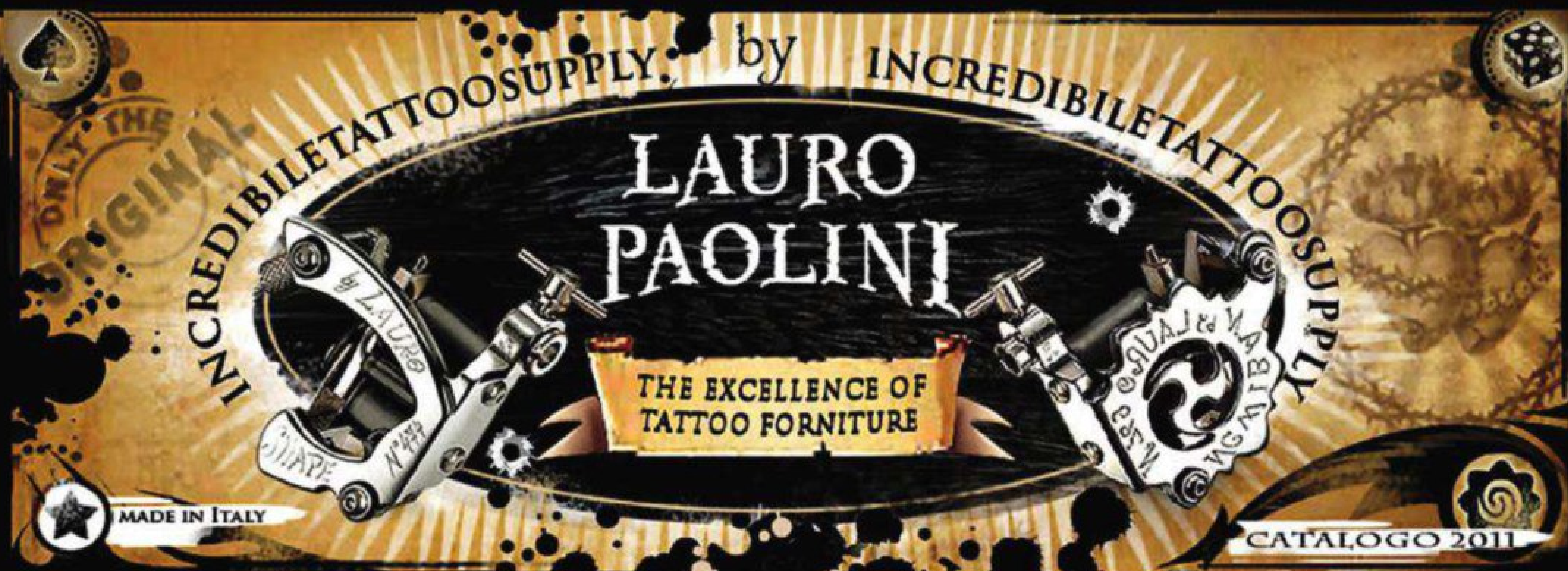
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Between magic, mysterious ladies and sensuality...

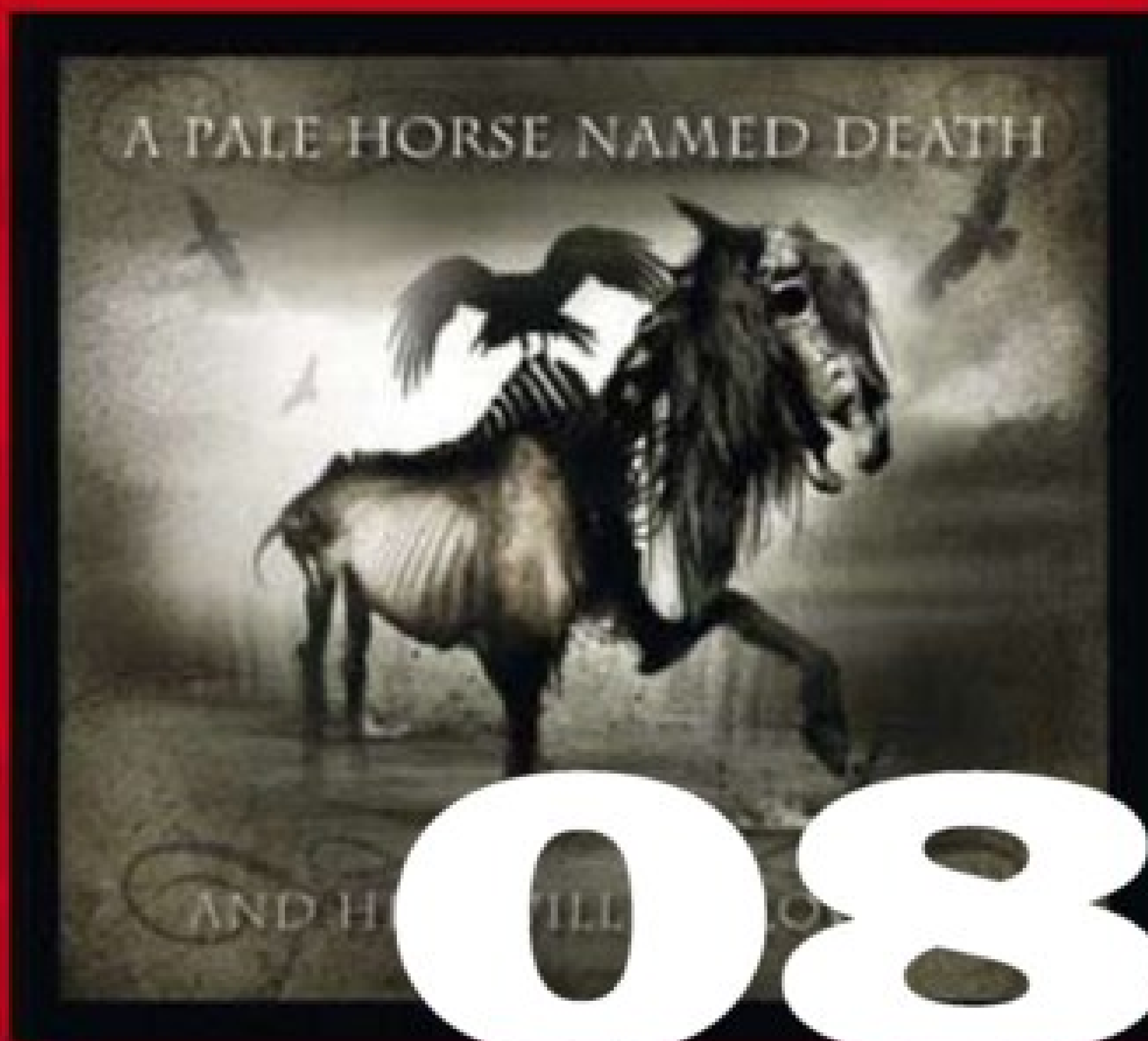
Here is the hottest issue of the year! **Tattoo Energy** with the sexy 2012 **Tattoo Calendar**. The star of this year is **Vanessa Lake**, one of the most interesting American alt models who will accompany you month after month throughout 2012. Set in a marvellous hotel out of time this calendar is a perfect combination of mystery and sensuality. But let's go on with our pages, full of tattoos and lots of news about the international tattoo world!

The lead characters of this issue are two fine tattooists: **Dana Helmuth**, American, and **Crispy Lennox**, British. The "young" United States and good old Great Britain. Let's meet them close up: **Helmuth** is an expert in the

Japanese style. He just took a Sabbatical to focus on his role in the tattoo world and just got back more aggressive than ever sharing his time between his private studio in Maryland and the Independent Tattoo studio in Selbyville, Delaware. **Lennox**, works at Black Garden Tattoo in London and is an expert in combining realistic elements with neo-traditional pieces. We asked Crispy about his passion for mysterious ladies crying dark tears and he told us that...Well, of course we won't tell you here given this is just an editorial we are using to stir up your curiosity!

So dive into this new issue of **Tattoo Energy** and enjoy our new interview dedicated to an

EDITORIAL



awesome American band called **A Pale Horse Named Death**. The members of this band are all former band members of the New York sound such as Life Of Agony, Biohazard and Type O Negative. And for the occasion we spoke with the great **Sal Abruscato**, once the drummer of Type O Negative and Life Of Agony, but today the inspired vocalist/guitarist of APHND with a passion for black and grey tattoos dedicated to tough subjects such as ghosts, dragons, corpse-brides, etc. As concerns this issue's Symbology we sort of tried to continue along the same esoteric line telling you about the real or imaginary ups and down of another fantasy category: **Wizards**. And **Brad Pitt** can certainly be considered a

Hollywood "witch". He is the subject of our Portraits feature at the peak of a career that brought him to work with a genial director as Terence Malick.

After reading about what handsome Brad is doing, let yourself be taken into the numerous galleries dedicated to subjects such as **Fantasy, Oriental, Lettering, Horror** and **Portraits** with the fresh and sophisticated works of the finest international artists. And last but not least, enjoy the final wave of our **Tattoo Wave** section for the umpteenth miscellaneous of pieces all there for you to discover. What can we say, here is another rich issue to dive into and enjoy. So...what are you waiting for?!

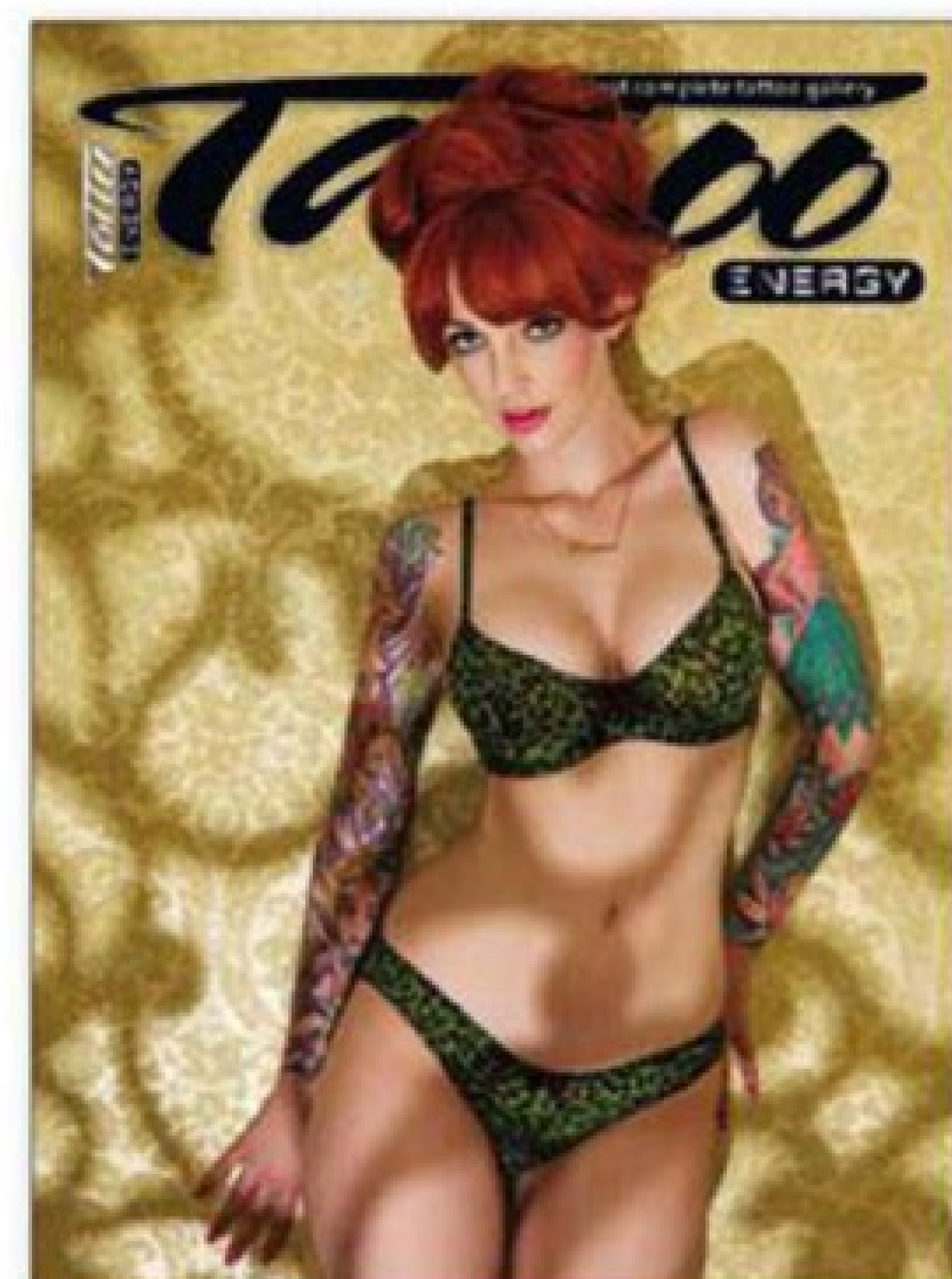
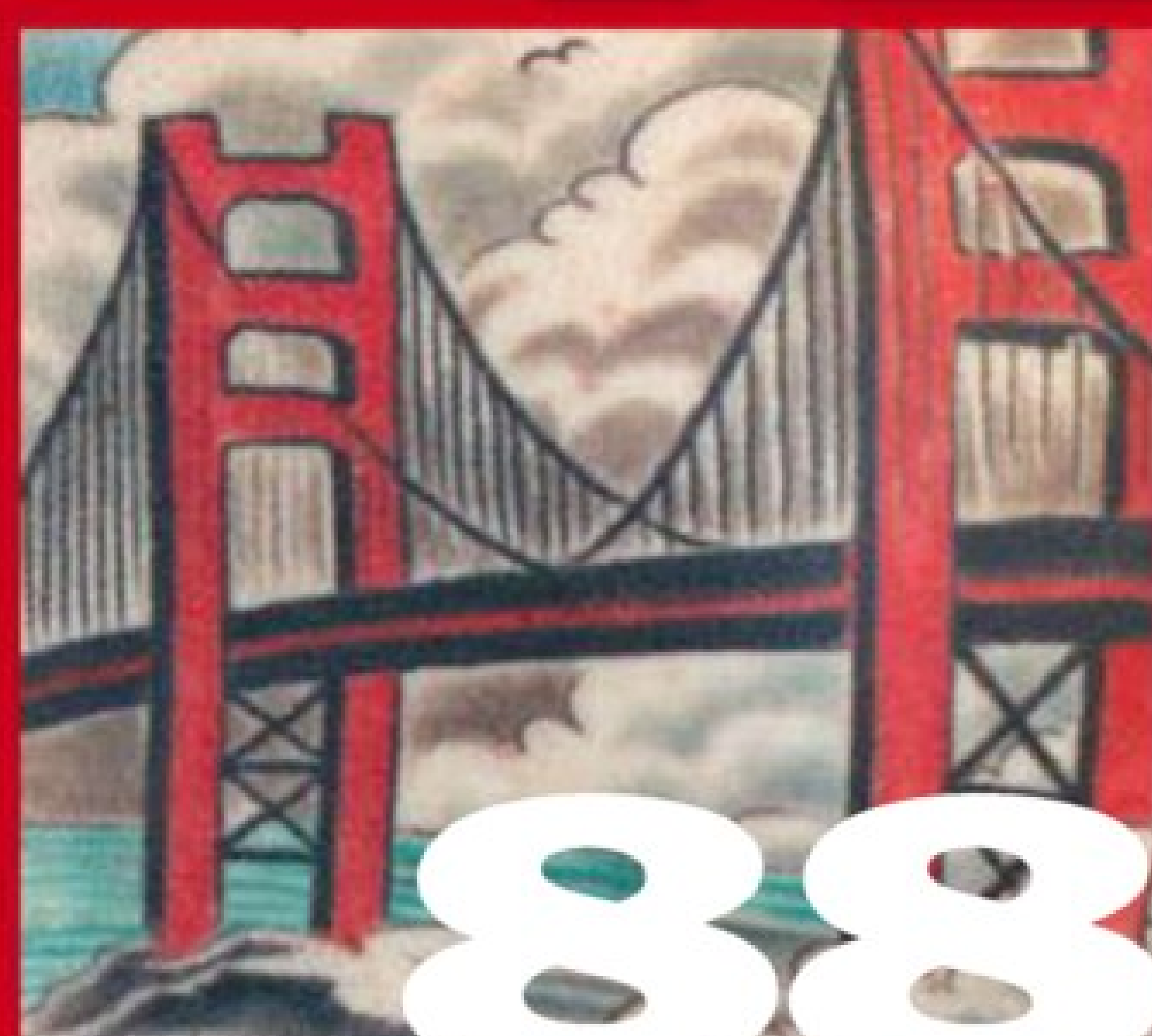


Photo: Christian Saint
thechristiansaint@gmail.com
Model: Vanessa Lake
www.ispyvanessalake.com
Tattoos by: Jime Litwalk, Hart & Huntington, Las Vegas, Usa (left arm)
Adam Hathorn a.k.a. Honkeykong, Guru Tattoo, San Diego, Usa (right arm)



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SAL ABRUSCATO A PALE HORSE NAMED DEATH AS BLACK AND GREY AS MY HEART...

EVERYBODY KNOWS SAL ABRUSCATO, HE REALLY DOESN'T NEED A PROPER INTRODUCTION. IN THE 90'S HE WAS THE DRUMMER OF TWO OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL BANDS OF THE NEW YORK HARDCORE SCENE (LIFE OF AGONY OF 'RIVER RUNS RED') AND OF POST-HARDCORE MIXED WITH DARK-WAVE INFLUENCES (THE UNFORGETTABLE TYPE O NEGATIVE OF MISTER PETE STEELE). NOW, AFTER LEAVING THE DRUM-KIT, ABRUSCATO HAS BECOME THE VOCALIST/GUITARIST OF THE DARK A PALE HORSE NAMED DEATH, BUT IN THIS INTERVIEW HE SPOKE ABOUT HIS LOVE FOR BLACK AND GREY PIECES. AND HOW YOU CAN'T RUSH WHEN IT COMES TO TATTOO...

Sal, somebody like you really knows a lot about tattoo art: do you remember how you got into this fascinating art world?

Well, first of all I fell in love with good punk, metal and hardcore music. And here in New York we've always had lots of it! (laughs) Tattoos, at that point, were just a natural consequence. I got my first one

when I was still a teenager. I was sixteen and I got a tattoo in a studio in Brooklyn. I don't even remember its name... And when my parents found out they really flipped! Ha, ha, ha!

You love tattoos and you seem to have a thing for black and grey, right?

Yeah, I like that style because it reflects my

personality. I think other people look good with brilliant and colored tattoos, but as far as I am concerned, I am 100% black and grey! Even though I do have a few colored pieces here and there...

Do you have tattoos only along your arms or...?

Basically yes. My arms are completely covered and then I have a lettering of A Pale Horse Named Death at the bottom of my neck. You want to know if I have a tattoo that is more important than others? Well, it is a difficult question given that each one of my pieces represents my life. And the bands I have played in so far.

This was my next question: let's talk about the various bands and the tattoos dedicated to them...

Easy: I have the logo of Life Of Agony, that of Type O Negative and the most recent, the tattoo of A Pale Horse Named Death I was

**LINE-UP**

Sal Abruscato - voice, guitar
 Bobby Hambel - guitar
 Matt Brown - guitar
 Eric Morgan - bass
 Johnny Kelly - drum

ALBUM

'And Hell Will Follow Me'

LABEL

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PHOTOS

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www.apalehorsenameddeath.com

www.myspace.com/apalehorsenameddeath

Facebook: A Pale Horse Named Death

ami Pete (Steele, ndr) nous a quittés l'année dernière et par conséquent avoir un tatouage de Type O Negative sur ma peau, vaut plus que tout autre hommage... (soupirs)

Penses-tu que le son oppressant des TON, des LOA ou des APHND soit bien approprié à une boutique de tatouages?

Tout à fait! D'ailleurs, chers amis tatoueurs, si vous ne l'avez pas encore fait, mettez sans hésiter un morceau d'un de ces groupes durant vos séances! Vous serez tout de suite dans l'ambiance...

Quels motifs as-tu sur les bras?

J'ai un tas de visages spectraux, de mariées cadavériques, de dragons, de dragons ailés, le drapeau de la Sicile, des machines industrielles, des fossiles et des araignées. Je pense que je n'ai rien oublié!

Qui sont tes tatoueurs préférés?

Je connais énormément de tatoueurs, mais j'ai une préférence pour Mirko Bosco du Double Trouble de Côme (Italie) et pour Alex du studio belge La Main Bleue. Ces deux gars ont un talent fou!

As-tu l'intention de te faire d'autres pièces dans l'avenir?

Oui, mais pour le moment je ne sais pas encore

quoi faire. Je n'ai surtout pas envie de me dépêcher et de me faire tatouer n'importe quoi. Tu sais, les mots 'vite' et 'tatouage' ne vont pas ensemble.

Je voudrais terminer cette interview en parlant du premier album de A Pale Horse Named Death...

Et bien, laisse-moi avant tout préciser que je joue maintenant à plein temps dans ce groupe. Il arrive parfois que l'on s'adresse encore à moi en tant que batteur des Life Of Agony... Non, j'ai joué de la batterie pendant trente ans de suite et maintenant j'ai envie de changer de moyen d'expression, c'est-à-dire en jouant de la guitare et en chantant.

'And Hell Will Follow Me' m'a l'air d'être un bon mélange de Type O Negative avec 'Bloody Kisses' et d'Alice In Chains qui sont plus tristes et plus désespérés...

Pour ce qui est d'Alice In Chains je ne sais pas: je n'ai qu'un seul album d'eux chez moi, un 'Best Of', mais être comparé à Jerry Cantrell and Co, je dois dire que c'est un grand honneur! En ce qui concerne Type O Negative oui, mon côté obscur se retrouve dans ma musique et peut faire penser à eux (le batteur de TON, Johnny Kelly, joue aussi dans le groupe, ndr). Mais musicalement parlant, A Pale Horse Named Death est différent. Il est plus personnel.

MUSIC

Text by Simone Sacco

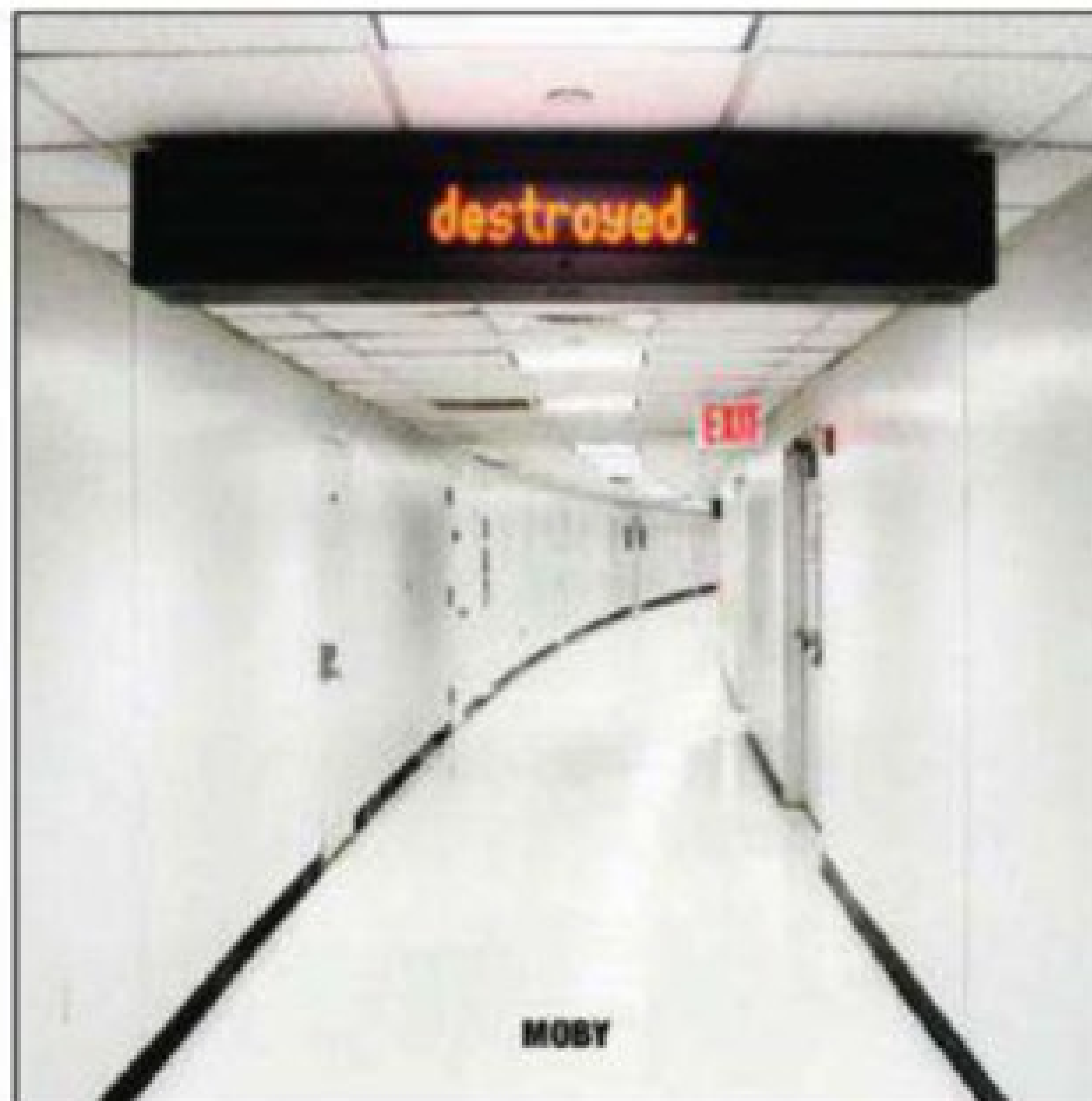


NEW SOUNDS

Text by Roy Micuzzi

MOBY DESTROYED (Edel)

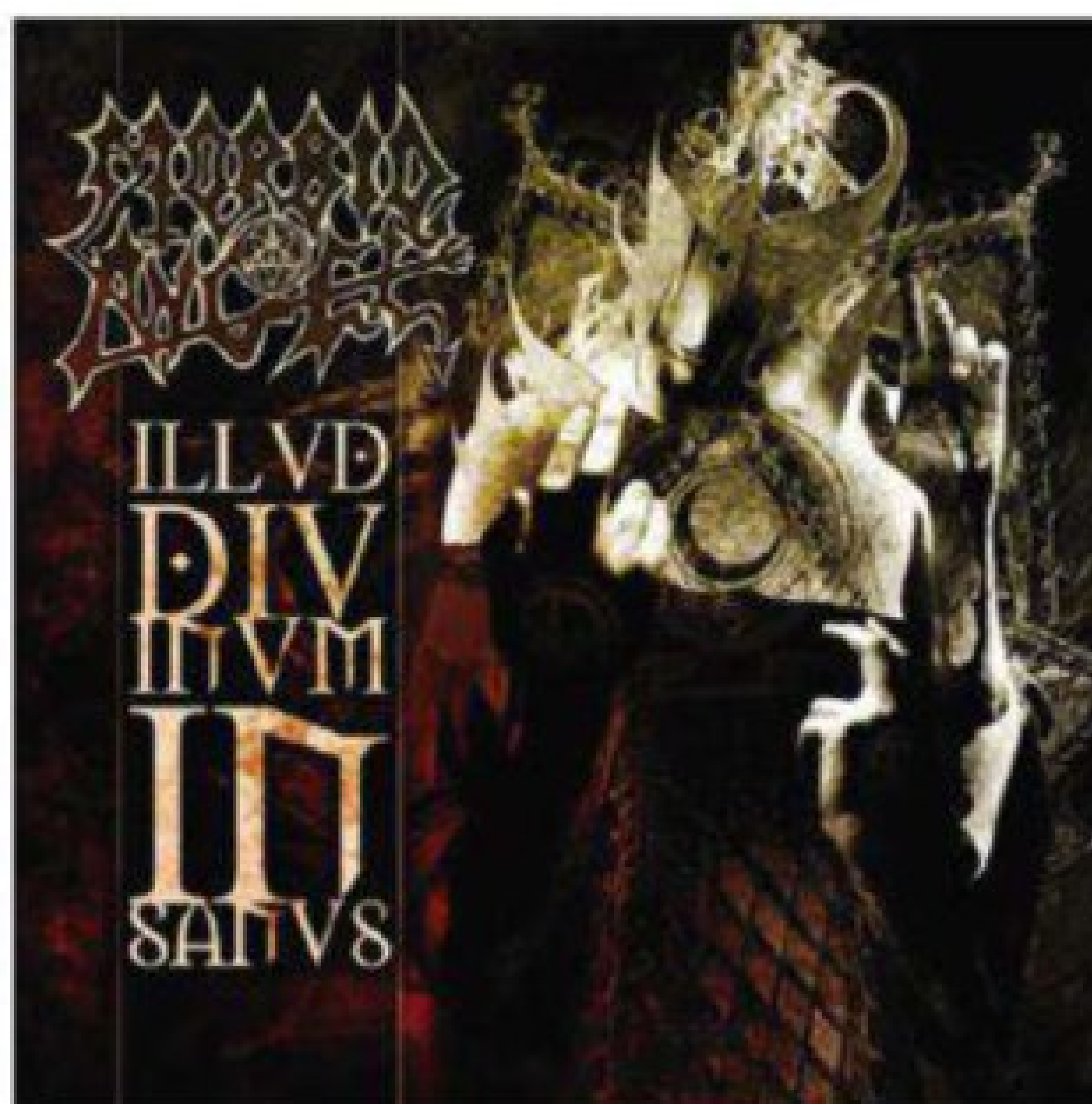
Moby has been desperately trying to double the multi-millionaire success of *Play* for the past 10 years. And at least once, with *18*, he got pretty close. Of course this wasn't enough, so even this new *Destroyed*, which was released a few seasons after the not really successful *Wait For Me*, prefers taking inspiration from the usual masters of electronics (Glass, Oldfield, Sakamoto, etc.) and stirring up our curiosity with the usual formula of "beat + piano + electronic string sounds + soul singing" which really creates nostalgia. Our favorite DJ produces pieces that people like (*Stella Maris*, *Sevastopol*, *Blue Moon* and the



soft *The Low Hum* and *The Right Thing*) but they really don't come close to masterpieces. So this album *Destroyed* is marked by this sort of mediocrity that from *Hotel* onwards seems to have accompanied Moby. But believe me, it is a really great "mediocre aura"...

MORBID ANGEL ILLUD DIVINUM INSANUS (Season Of Mist)

Yes, Morbid Angel of 2011 are different: don't hold your breath. The years that have passed from the previous (and not convincing...) *Heretic* now amount to eight and the return of the "prodigal son" David Vincent behind the microphone just produced yet another creative madness in one of the most respected death metal bands in the world. In *Illud Divinum Insanus* (an album which pays tribute to the letter "I") you will find both industrial electronic sounds (the groove that moves *Too Extreme!* and *I Am Motbid*) but also wild pieces that come right



from the nineties like *Blades For Baal* and *Beauty Meets Beast*. A hybrid album? Maybe. But masterpieces such as *Covenant* have never really been in the agenda...

ARCTIC MONKEYS SUCK IT AND SEE (Domino)

Despite the mad aversion of a small group of listeners, Arctic Monkeys are the most important British band of the past decade. Whatever Alex Turner and company do they will always give rise to contrasting opinions. With the success of the "desert-like" and "Californian" beat of the latest album (the amazing *Humbug* of 2009) still buzzing in our ears, here comes the fourth amazing album *Suck It And See*



SYMPHONY X ICONOCLAST (Nuclear Blast)



The American band Symphony X never stop. They are the number one band of top quality prog-power metal. The band created by Russell Allen (vocalist), Michael Romeo (guitar) and Michael Pinnella (keyboards) offers us - along the lines of the dark *Paradise Lost* - nine tracks for about an hour of pounding music. So between the fairly good *The End Of Innocence* and the devastating power of *Dehumanize*, you will have a blast listening to thrash sounds (*Heretic*), highly progressive beats (the awesome title track) and delicate ballads with a classical taste (*When All is Lost*). So can we consider *Iconoclast* as one of those heavy metal peaks of 2011? You bet!

NOTE: there is also a "deluxe" version of the album with three pieces that have never been published (*Light Up the Night*, *The Lord Of Chaos* and *Reign In Madness*). What can we say, quality and quantity go hand in hand.

(censored title in Puritan US!) that mixes the sunny sounds Beach Boys-style (*Brick By Brick*) with acid-rock (the single *Don't Sit Down 'Cause I've Moved Your Chair*) and great pop moments with *The Hellcat Spangled Shalalala*, *Reckless Serenade* and *That's Where You're Wrong* (this title really recalls The Smiths). Is this yet another bad boy band with their irresistible pieces? Well, these were the "Monkeys" of 2006. Today it is not a crime to talk about adult mammals.

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BRAD PITT

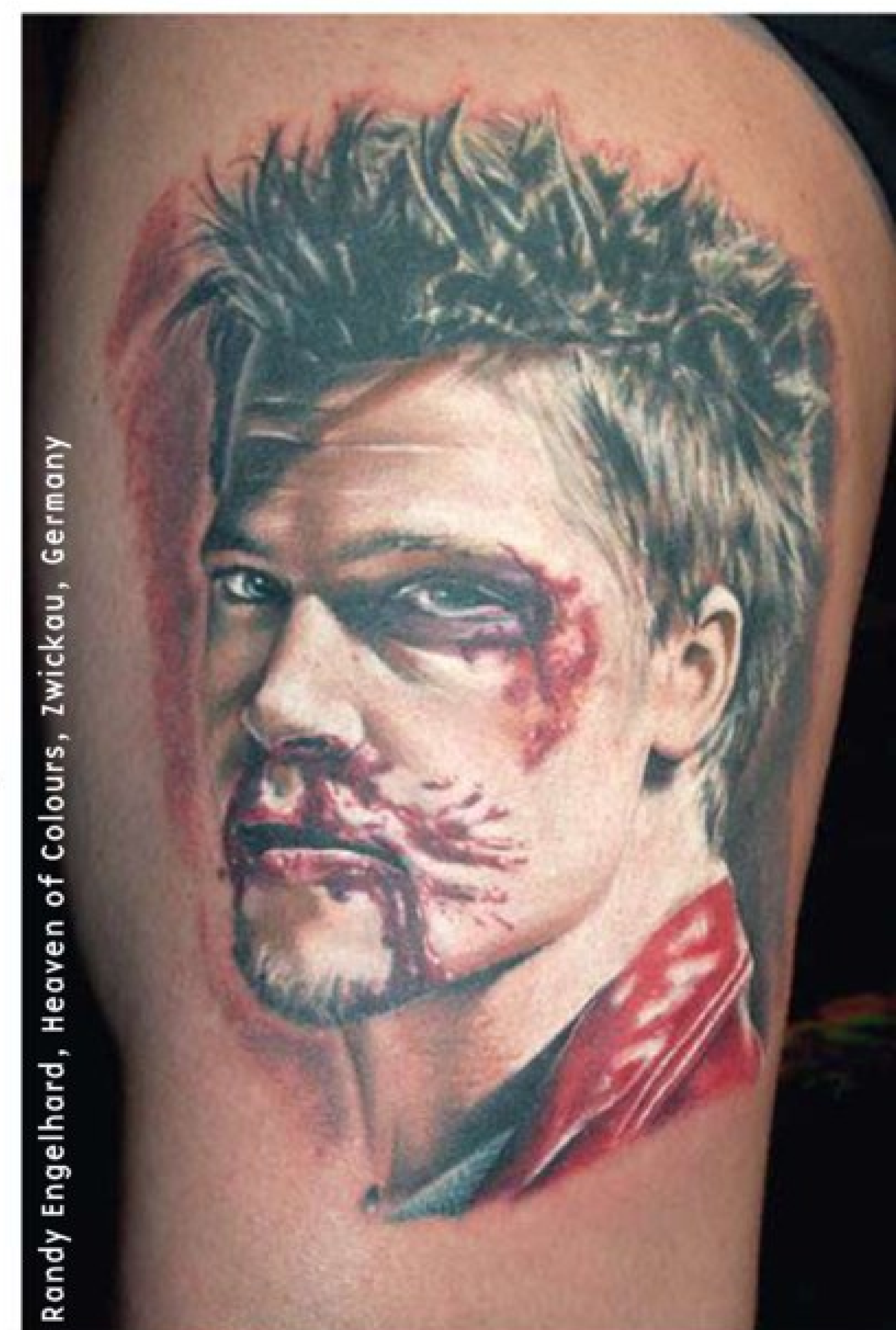
PORTRAITS

Text by Simone Sacco

ULTIMATE SEX SYMBOL OF THE 90'S, BUT ALSO GREAT ACTOR FOR DIRECTORS SUCH AS FINCHER, TARANTINO, THE COEN BROTHERS AND OF COURSE TERENCE MALICK. KISS ASS THIEF IN THE TRILOGY *OCEAN'S ELEVEN* BUT ALSO AMAZING BAD BOY IN *KALIFORNIA* AND *FIGHT CLUB*. AT THE CENTER OF GOSSIP (WE JUST HAVE TO MENTION HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH ANGELINA JOLIE AND KIDS?) AND PRODUCER OF AN EPIC FILM DEDICATED TO THE WESTERN STORY OF JESSE JAMES AND ROBERT FORD. ALL THIS AND MORE IS BRAD PITT. AND WE WANT TO TELL YOU ABOUT HIS CAREER...

William Bradley Pitt (better known as Brad) was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, December 18, 1963 so he will soon be 48 years old. When he was young he decided he wanted to become a journalist so he enrolled in the University of Missouri but he dropped out to go to Hollywood to pursue an acting career in Los Angeles, just two credits shy of a college degree. Brad, though is very tenacious, nothing scared him and before he turned 30 he had already done the wildest jobs: chauffeuring strippers from one bachelor party to the next, delivering refrigerators, and dressing up as a chicken to advertise a famous restaurant chain. In 1987, at 24, Pitt got some minor roles (*No Way Out* marked his

great debut in the film industry) and he also appeared in TV shows, such as the famous TV series *Dallas*. He was offered a great opportunity by NBC who wanted him for the TV movie *To Young To Die* along with a very young Juliette Lewis who, in time, will become one of his most famous partners. His big chance arrived in 1991 when he obtained the part of the thief-hitchhiker J.D. in the hit *Thelma and Louise* by Ridley Scott; his love scene with Geena Davis is something everybody in Hollywood will remember for a long time... From then on he specialized in "bad guy" roles in the psychotic *Kalifornia* (again with Lewis) and in one of Tarantino's amazing films called *True Romance*. In the 90's he landed the role in the memorable film *Seven* (1995), first "mega film" by his friend David Fincher, followed by *Legends of the Fall*, *Sleepers* and *12 Monkeys* (and won his first Golden Globe for "best supporting actor"). Unfortunately his next film (*Meet Joe Black* with Anthony Hopkins) inspired little praise, but from then on Pitt doesn't skip a beat. In 2002 next up for Brad Pitt was *The Snatch* directed by Guy Ritchie (at the time Madonna's husband) and then he joined the A-list ensemble cast including George Clooney and Matt Damon in the Steven Soderbergh's remake of the of the Rat Pack original *Ocean's Eleven*, *Ocean's 12* and *Ocean's 13*. At the same time Brad continues his much gossiped relationship with his wife Jennifer Aniston ("The girl next door" who became famous thanks to the amazing success of the TV series *Friends*). His marriage comes to an end in 2005, when Pitt starred across from the explosive Angelina Jolie in *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*. The media goes wild, they talk about a summer fling, but it is just the beginning of a very serious relationship between the



Randy Engelhard, Heaven of Colours, Zwickau, Germany

two actors (the famous 'Brangelina'). The couple had a girl (Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt) and then the twins (Knox Léon Jolie-Pitt and Vivienne Marcheline Jolie-Pitt) born in Nice, France, in the summer of 2008. In those years Brad starred in *Babel*, the film he considers "the best of his career" and the excellent *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* earning Brad the Volpi Cup Award at the Venice Film Festival. In 2009 he obtained his second nomination for his role in *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (by Fincher) and his big blockbuster the amazing *Inglorious Basterds* by Quentin Tarantino where he played the mean lieutenant Aldo Raine. Is this all? Of course not, lately Brad also starred in *The Tree Of Life* written and directed by Terence Malick which chronicles the origins and meaning of life by way of a middle-aged man's childhood memories of his family living in 1950s Texas. As far as I am concerned, he is absolutely amazing in this film and he will soon double his success in the ambitious *The Lost City Of Z* (it is still being produced and it is based on a novel by David Grann) where the former boy from Oklahoma will play the role of a British explorer searching for a mysterious civilization from the Amazon. It will certainly be another blockbuster...



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Tattoo Symbolology

WIZARDS

WIZARDS ARE MASTERS OF OCCULT ARTS WHICH THEY USE TO MATERIALIZE THEIR WILL AND DESIRES. AN ICON THAT DATES BACK TO THE MISTS OF TIME AND THAT TODAY IS MORE CONTEMPORARY THAN EVER.

by MAURIZIO DE PAOLA

The word *magic* comes from the word *magoi*, a term used by the Greeks to define the priests of the tribe of Medi, that were then taken in by the Persian Empire. Wizards (or *magi*) were also priests of Babylon and Assyria where, as masters of occult sciences, they were also considered astrologers, fortune-tellers and alchemists. The wizard was a person able to perform rituals to impose the will of men onto the forces of nature and control its mysteries. Given that, in most civilizations, there is a clear difference between white magic (used to do good and for the well-being of the community) and black magic (used for evil things and for destruction). People immediately also made a difference between *wizards* and *sorcerers*, basically between those who are on the good side and bad side of magic. An important detail: as strange as it may seem, *witches* are not the female counterpart of wizards or magicians. They have a very different history and origin, even though they share some things in common such as the use of magic for different things. We will speak about them in one of our next issues. The wizard (male) stems from a sacred and institutional context, closely linked to the political and administrative power of a community. He represents the person that, unlike the community, can live without mystic sacrifice and bend - or at least try to bend - God's will to his own.



Justin W., Kings Avenue Tattoo, Massapequa, USA

Furthermore, it is necessary to make another important distinction between the wizard and the *shaman*. The latter has always been a man of medicine, an intermediary between men and the gods, but almost always unintentionally, a mystical man who received the gift of being able to communicate with the spirits but who doesn't know the laws of man, though putting his gift to the service of the community. The shaman, unlike the wizard, is from a cultural and iconographic standpoint, an isolated and distant subject, who lives in faraway areas, difficult to reach. People go to him only in particular cases, whereas the wizard is a representative of the community and of power, perfectly integrated in society.

Magic, of course has its own laws and rules and the wizard uses them as a natural extension of human ones, but they

are so "dangerous" they are a matter for a few lucky ones.

Magic, in fact, is based on the acquisition of knowledge that allows the wizards to control the forces and vital energy that fill nature. To do it they require "specific senses" able to capture this energy and fix it in magic objects as seals, talismans, potions and enchantments. Magic, furthermore, is connected to the secret dimension of numbers and letters, as in the famous formula *abracadabra* which recalls the sacred number **365**.

Even though every population in the past had its own wizards, Egypt is considered the motherland of institutionalized magic, basically magic considered as a real official religion. It was called *heka* and it was believed that its rules were disclosed directly by Goddess *Isis* to her priests, who could use it as they liked, to be as similar to the gods as possible. For



Arianna Settembrino, Skinwear Tattoo, Rimini, Italy



Jesso, Fallen Angel Tattoo, Citrus Heights, USA



Johnny, Junk Food Johnny, Heerlen, Holland

this reason, in the Jewish tradition, it is rejected and it is believed that every magical power (which Moses shows in the book of the Exodus) comes directly from God and the wizard is just an unaware intermediary.

Greeks and Romans follow the Egyptian tradition of priests who are at the same time wizards, intermediaries with the gods and administrators of the community, even though their role is more and more detached from the political and military one. In any case, during the Roman Empire, the Emperor also held the title of Pontifex Maximus and all the most confidential mysteries were disclosed to him by a very small and faithful group of wizard-priests. One of these secrets was the real and secret name of the city. At the time in fact, everybody simply called it *Urbe* or, in certain cases *Flora*. Rome or Romania was the group of territories under the Emperor's power. The secret name of the city could be pronounced or evoked through very powerful enchantments that, according to some, had helped the incredible military conquests of the Empire. With the beginning of Christianity, bishops and especially the bishop of Rome (the Pope), took on the ancient icons of the Emperor-



Clod the Ripper, Milano City Ink, Milan, Italy

priests, starting from the purple dress and the tiara, but for part of the Early Middle Ages, the Catholic church refused to believe in the existence of wizards, supporting the Jewish idea of magic as a divine power and trying to hold as much as possible the power of intermediation.

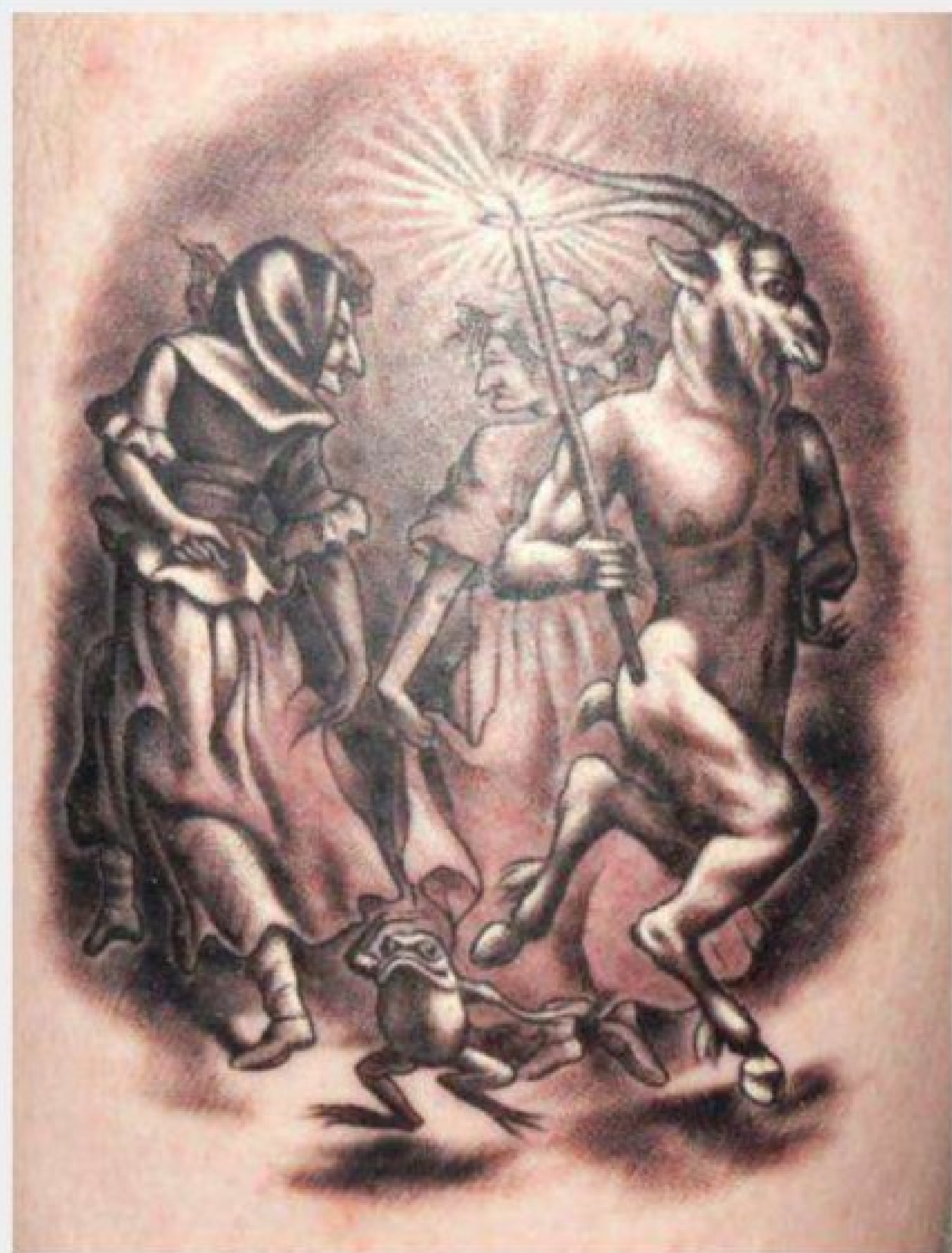
The same happened for Islamism. The Koran says that magic is a lie and that wizards are criminals, messengers sent from Satan. Yet, in the Islamic tradition, magic is considered one of the seven physical sciences, according to the classification of the historian and philosopher **Ibn Khaldun** (14th century). In Muslim countries in fact, Islamic Orthodoxy often had to deal with well-rooted magic traditions, hence sometimes there were clearly Pagan syncretisms in the temple.

Only after the crusades, with the direct contact between the Christian and Islamic worlds, there was a return of the subject of the powerful wizard among the people. From the 13th century on, the story of

king Arthur (actually set in the 6th century AD) started to spread throughout Europe, always accompanied by **Merlin** the wizard. Merlin is so popular that in the future he will become the ultimate symbol of the wizard in popular iconography. In reality, Merlin is a mix between a wizard and a shaman. An ambiguous character between good and evil, between white and black magic, so it is a bit difficult to "Christianize" him, along with the other magical subject of king Arthur's circle of people, **Morgan Le Fay**, king Arthur's sister and female counterpart of Merlin.

Merlin and Morgan, furthermore, also from an artistic standpoint, represent a clear link with Druidic and pre-Christian traditions in Celtic continental Europe, becoming also an ideologic alternative to the expansion of Christianity and paradoxically symbolic reference points for many heretic movements of the 13th and 14th centuries.

A particular type of wizard can be found in India, where he is not a medium between men or the gods or a particularly intelligent person who possesses secret knowledge, but someone who, by practicing the right rituals and sacrifices, was able to "force" one or more deities to offer him their powers, so he could use



Elton, Flaming Heart, Trondheim, Norway

them as he liked, hoping he would choose to use them for good reasons or for defense. It is also a very "democratic" idea of magic, because everybody can practice it, without belonging to a specific cast or category, even though the various legends specify that, to obtain divine magic powers, the procedures to follow are extremely complex and tough. This idea that the spirits can be put to one's service, in the Christian culture is considered as a demoniac art and this ideologic principle leads to the "witch hunt" in Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries. The most powerful people though still wanted to have wizards and magicians at court. People like **John Dee**, **Paracelso**, **Cagliostro** or **Michel de Notre Dame** (better known as **Nostradamus**) received favors and protection in exchange for their services that, if practiced among the people, would probably cost them their life. However, these subjects influenced culture so much and even the political world of the time that they were taken as model. They represented the man of universal culture, who is interested in every field of knowledge - both rational and irrational - with the same enthusiasm



Vincent Moisdon, Colorfast Tattoo, Coral Springs,



Niyri Sandor, Locomotive Tattoo, Budapest, Hungary

and dedication. They formulated (or simply re-discovered) the theory of the "cosmic body" that wants everything to be part of one organism which is our universe. This idea survived all the scientific and cultural revolutions throughout the centuries.

So there is this paradox that certain "extreme" areas of modern science such as quantum physics, more or less refer to the ideas expressed by the wizards of the Renaissance, without finding any ideologic contradiction. Every scientist believes that he is a wizard of modern times, at least because in one way or another he bends -or tries to bend - the forces of nature to his will. If this isn't magic...

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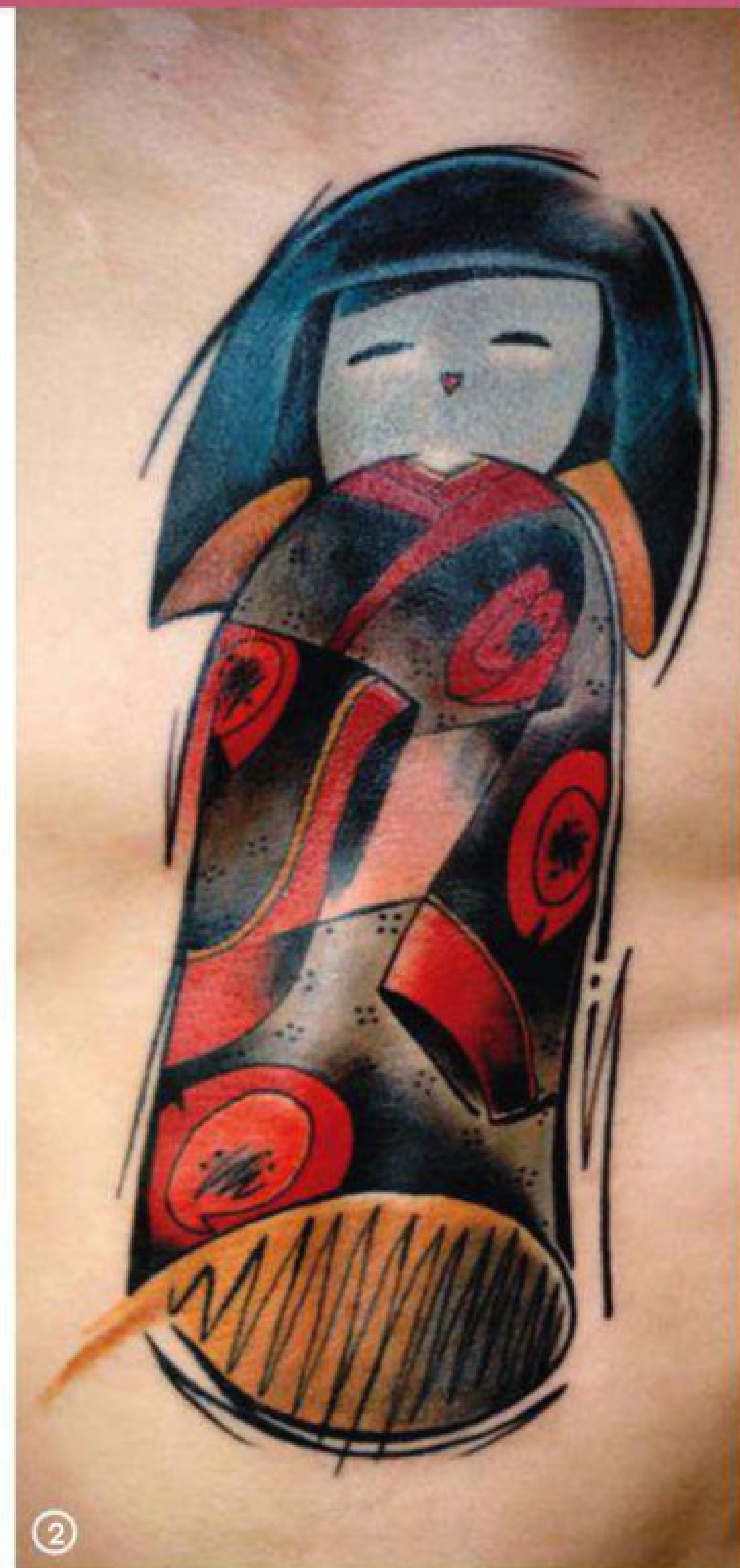
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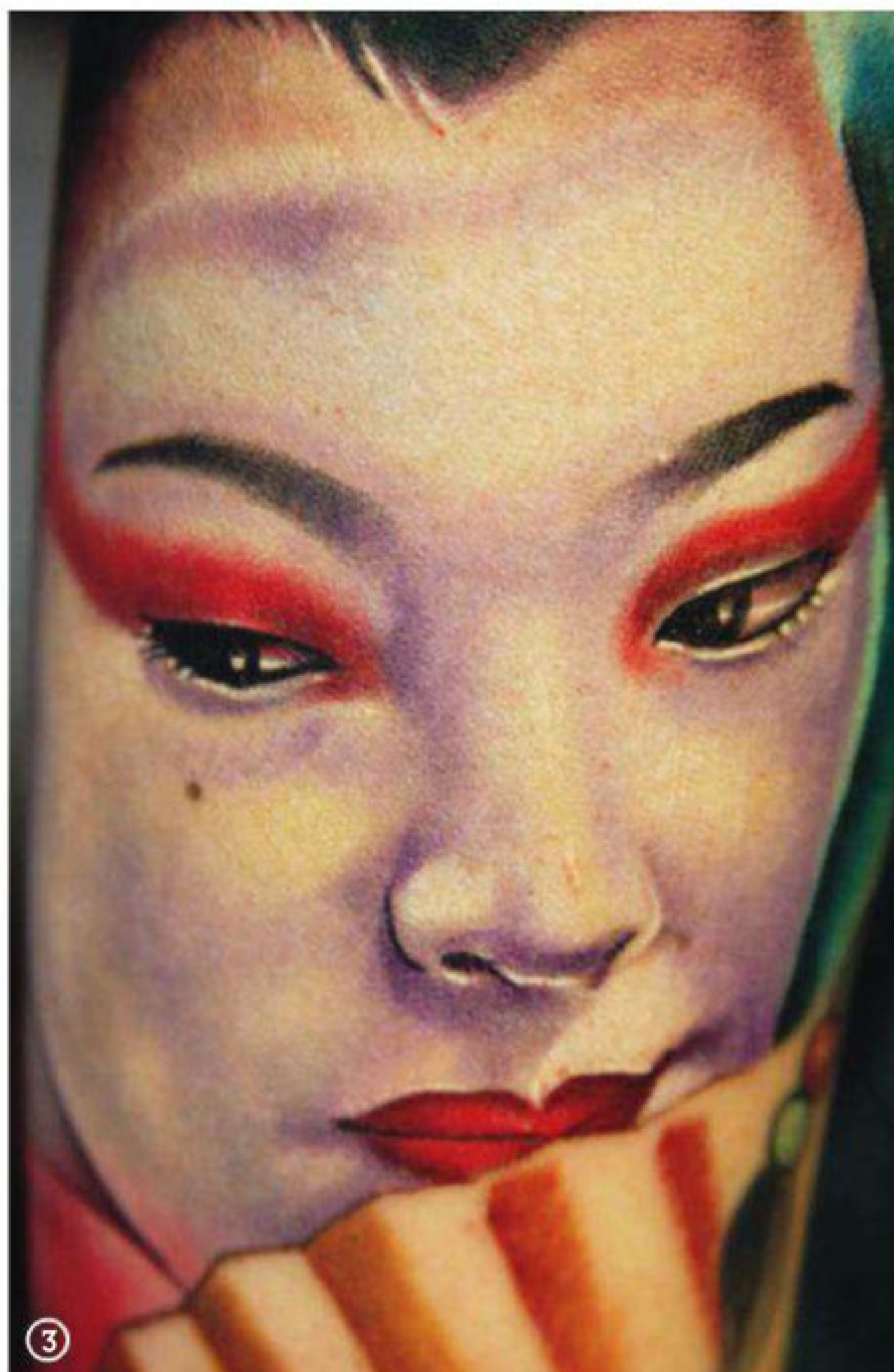


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CRISPY LENNOX

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LADIES, BLACK TEARS AND LOTS OF REALISTIC ARE THE SIGNATURE MARKS OF CRISPY LENNOX, AN AUSTRALIAN BORN ARTIST WHO CURRENTLY LIVES IN LONDON. IN THIS INTERVIEW HE TELLS US ABOUT HIS STYLE FILLED WITH STRONG NEO-TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS, HYPER-REALISTIC COLORS AND REALISTIC OUTLINES.

Text by Simone Sacco

CRISPY LENNOX
C/O Black Garden Tattoo
183 Drury Lane,
WC2B 5QF London, UK
Tel: 020 74 30 01 44
Facebook: Crispy Lennox





HI CRISPY, WELCOME TO THE PAGES OF TATTOO ENERGY! THE FIRST TYPICAL QUESTION IS: "CRISPY" IS YOUR NICKNAME RIGHT, OR IS IT YOUR REAL NAME?

Well, my real name is Chris, Crispy is just a nickname they gave me when I started my apprenticeship. When I started working at conventions I was always introduced to people by the name of Crispy, so now I am known as... Crispy.

YOU STARTED TATTOOING IN 2006... WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE THAT CRUCIAL YEAR? WERE YOU ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH THE

TATTOO CULTURE BEFORE THEN?

I started my apprenticeship in 2006, but before then I did various jobs: worker, maintenance, gardening. It was in 2004 that I really stepped into the tattoo world, and I even bought some instruments. I started working from home, as most people do, but I realized it would be too difficult to learn by myself, so I started looking for an apprenticeship.

IS IT TRUE THAT YOUR GREATEST MASTER IS PAUL BRANIFF? TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT HIM...

Paul was absolutely my mentor, as well as

master as concerns tattooing. He certainly belongs to the "old school"! He experienced the changes of the sector, from the good old times when artists tattooed without using gloves, up to what it has become today. I really owe him a lot. Even though he is part of the old school, he is still up-to-date... He uses a Hawk haha! I worked as an apprentice for him for four years, just like in the old days, no short-cuts. And I thank him for this, because he made me a humble artist, with my feet on the ground.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR TATTOO STYLE? TRY TO EXPLAIN IT USING



YOUR OWN WORDS, TRUE AND SPECIAL...

Well, it is really difficult to describe my work, because I don't really have a particular "style". I always had a strong background based on realism, so I could say that I try to mix my pieces in portrait style with more neo-traditional elements.

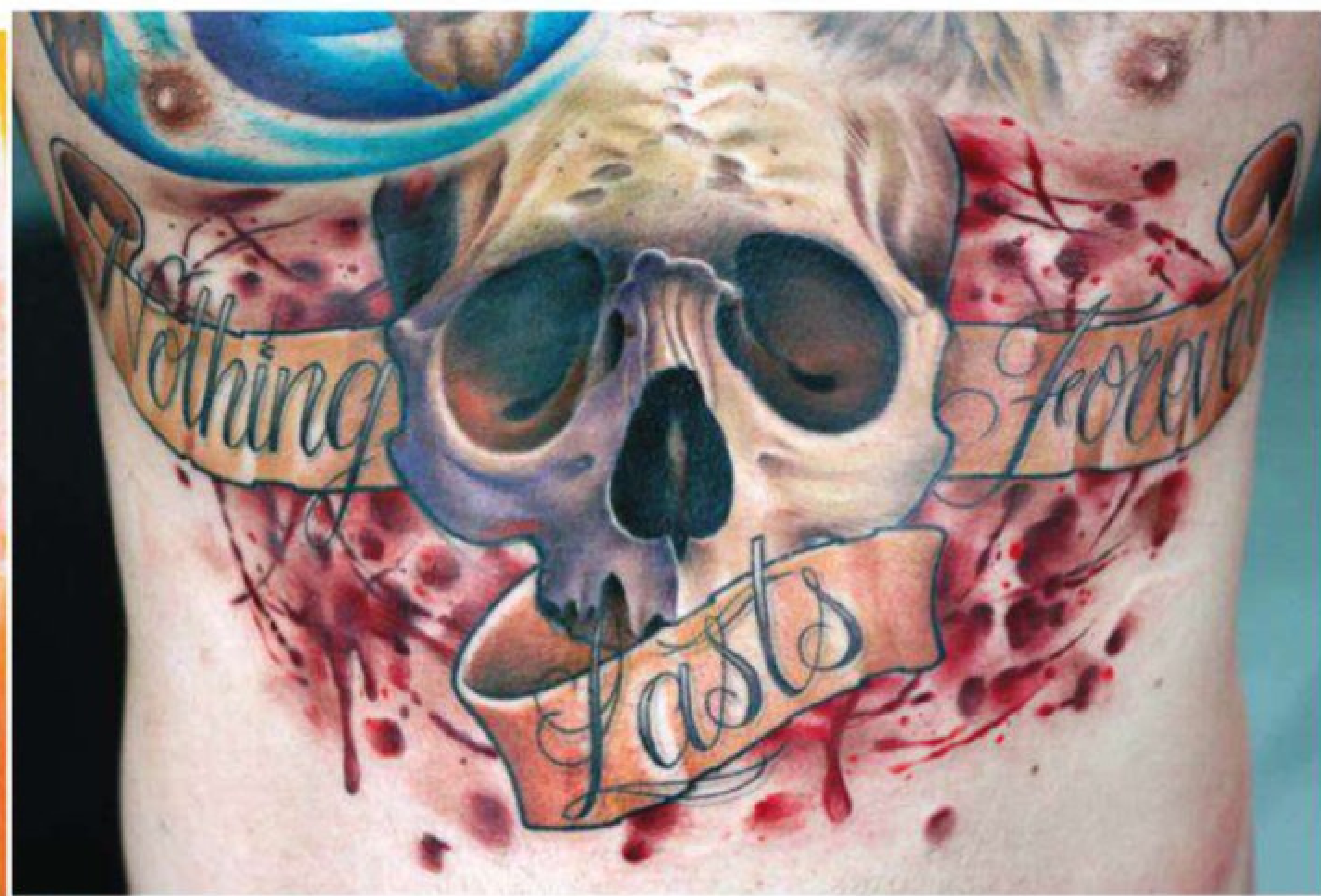
THE FEMALE SUBJECTS SEEM BASIC AND PREDOMINANT IN YOUR TATTOOS: WHY?

I think that if you look in the past, the female figure has always been an important element in art. It is simply one of the ideas that will never pass in the tattoo world, and there is certainly a good reason for that.

WHY DO ALL YOUR WOMEN CRY BLACK TEARS? IS THERE A MEANING BEHIND THIS?

Girls crying...To tell you the truth, dark eyes and make-up dripping come from an aesthetical perspective. I designed girls for years and I wanted to do something a bit different. I was very much influenced by Brian Viveros's pieces.

I think it is a good way to add a bit of dynamism to the simple face of a girl. So basically I got used to drawing tears every time I designed a girl, and now without tears and dark make-up the piece doesn't look complete.



TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT THE OTHER ARTISTS WORKING AT BLACK GARDEN TATTOO IN LONDON... ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THEIR WORK?

The guys of Black Garden are fantastic, they are very simple people, with whom it is very nice to work, not to mention they are incredible artists! Usually we work together, we sit side by side and we draw together, asking for one another's opinion and helping one another. To grow as an artist, I think it is necessary to work with other people that are moving in the same direction. It is a creative environment!

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE TATTOO STYLES? AND TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT THE OTHER STYLES THAT REALLY DON'T APPEAL TO YOUR CREATIVITY...

What I like best is combining realism

with the neo-traditional style. Portraits of girls with more traditional elements like roses and any other thing that goes with the overall design... and skulls. I also like comics style tattoos a lot. If there is a style that I really don't like, it is the traditional one, and the traditional Japanese style. I can draw in these styles too but with my realistic background it is really difficult for me to tattoo in the traditional style.

THANKS TO YOUR FACEBOOK PROFILE, I KNOW YOU ARE A GREAT FAN OF DAMIEN RICE (YEAH!) AND ARCADE FIRE (DOUBLE YEAH!). SO YOU LIKE TO LISTEN TO SOFT, DEEP MUSIC WHEN YOU ARE WORKING?

Yes, I usually work listening to chill-out music. Radiohead, Arcade Fire, Postal Service, The xx and Bright Eyes are always on my playlist. Music helps me relax and

also helps the customer feel more at ease. And I only work with rotary machines and the Cheyenne Hawk, so tattooing is pleasant and silent!

LONDON IS ONE OF THE MAIN CITIES LINKED TO GOOD MUSIC, A GREAT WAY OF LIVING AND ART IN GENERAL. DO YOU THINK THE LONDON TATTOO SCENE HAS "SOMETHING MORE" TO OFFER THE REST OF THE WORLD?

So far I found that London has a very international community linked to the tattoo world. Most of the shops have a large number of international artists, more than from the UK. Russians, Polish, Italian, French...I am Australian and I work in a shop with four Brazilian artists! One of the strongpoints of London is that it is a great meeting point for Europe. Conventions,





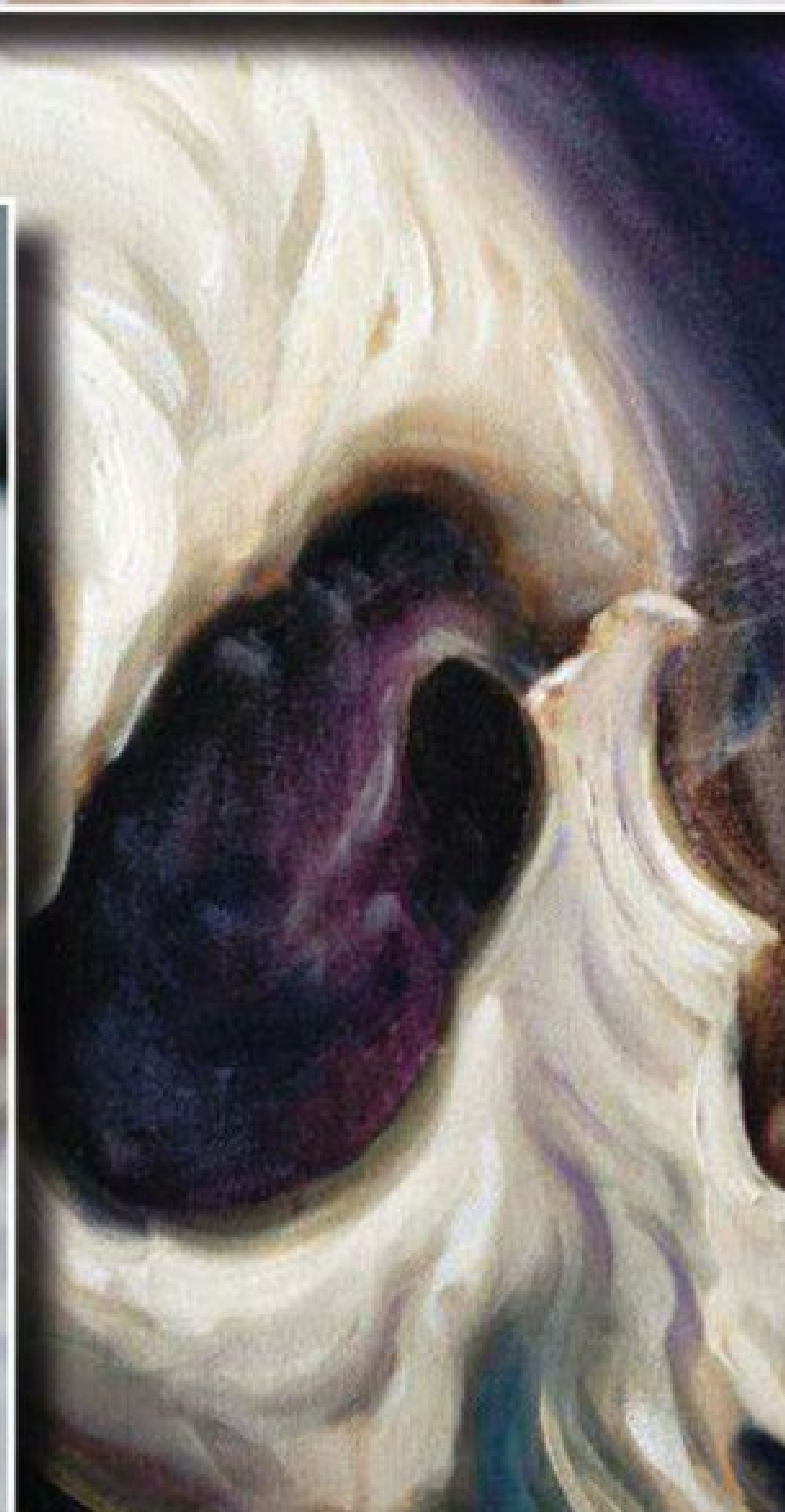
guest-spots, the world is just a step away, except for Australia, which is still very far.

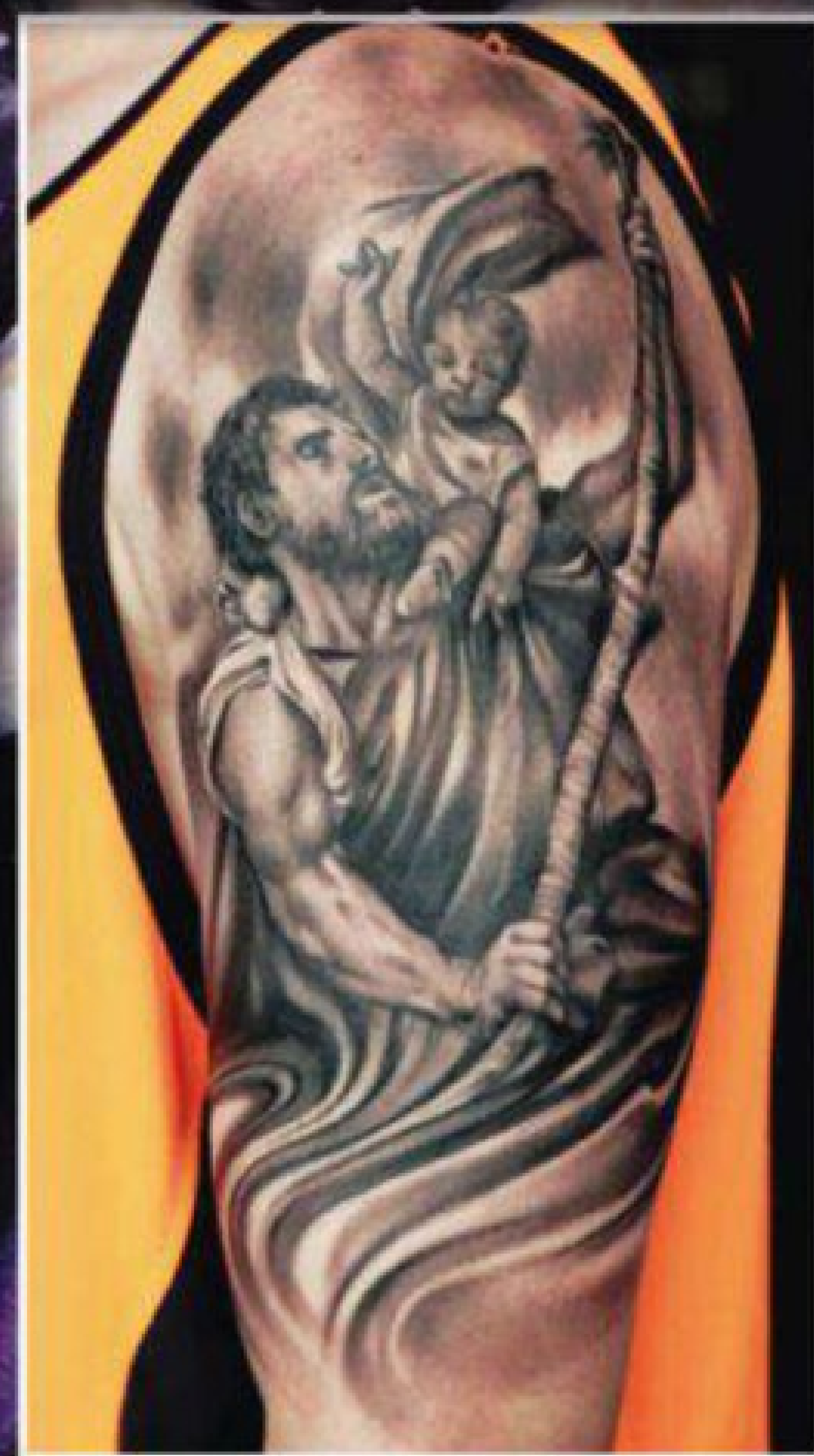
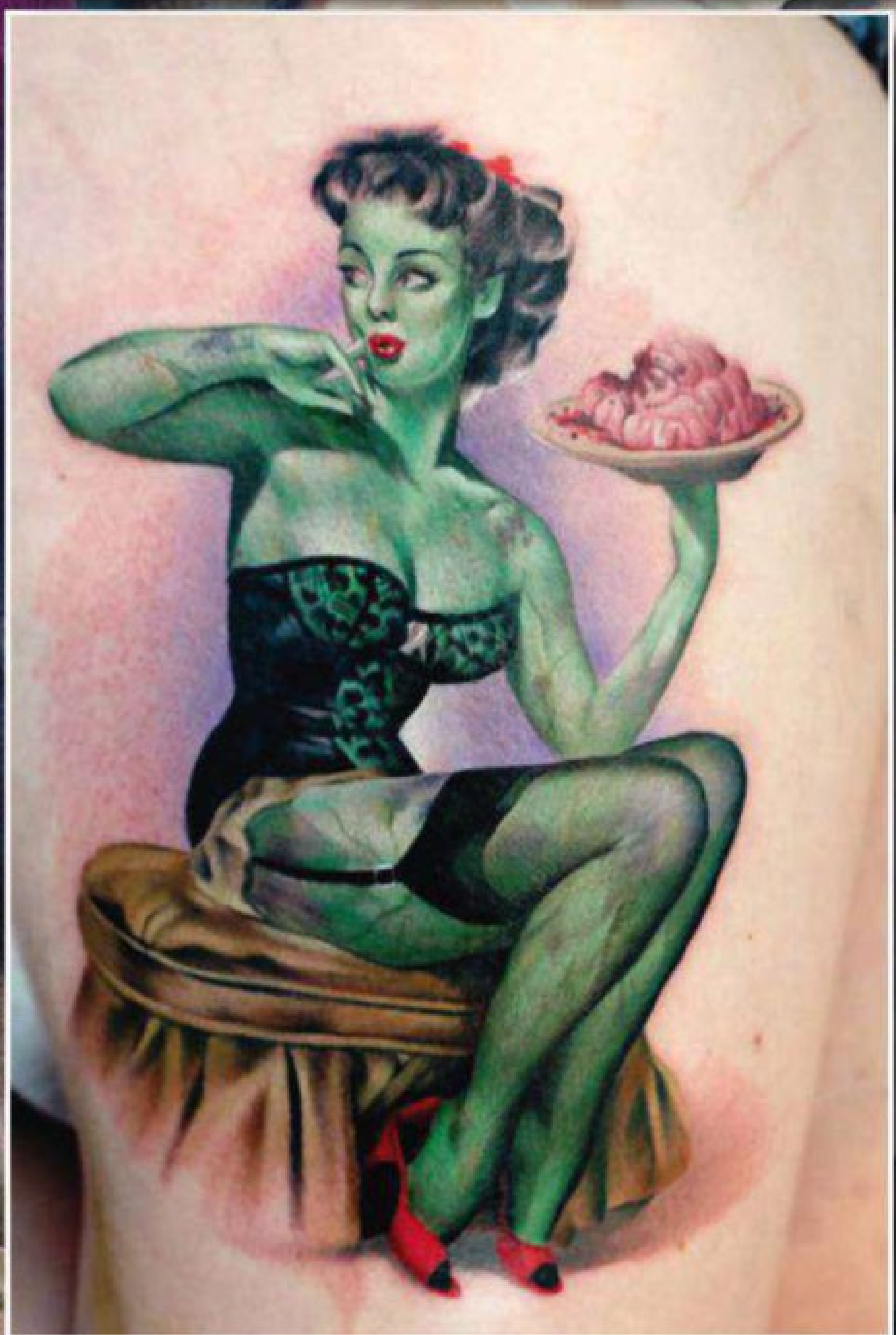
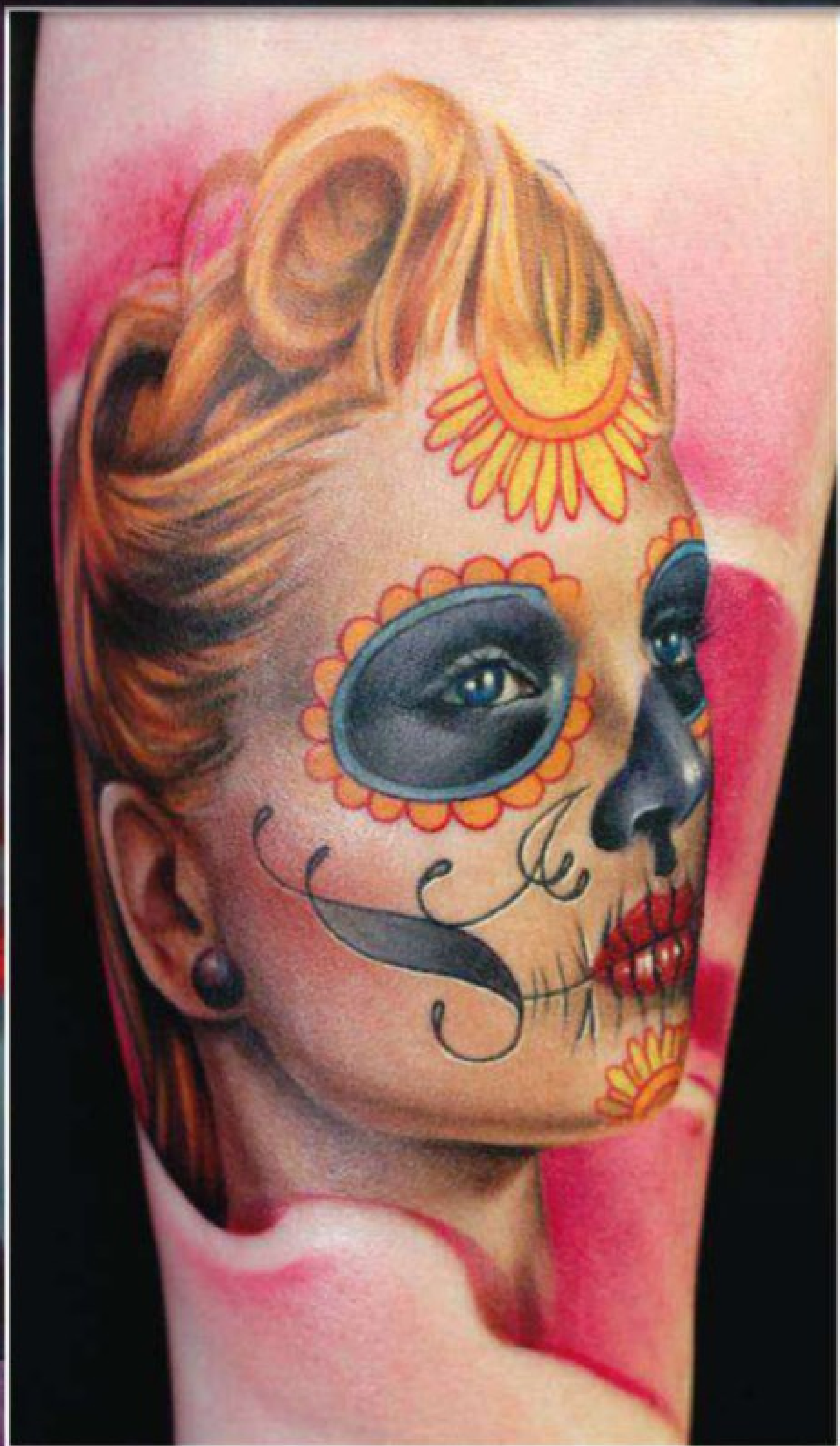
WILL YOU TAKE PART IN ANY CONVENTION THIS COMING FALL? AND WILL YOU DO ANY GUEST SPOTS IN THE UK OR EUROPE?

I have some planned: Tattoo Jam in Doncaster, the London Convention, and Brussels in October. I would like to do more so I just have to figure out which ones are the best!

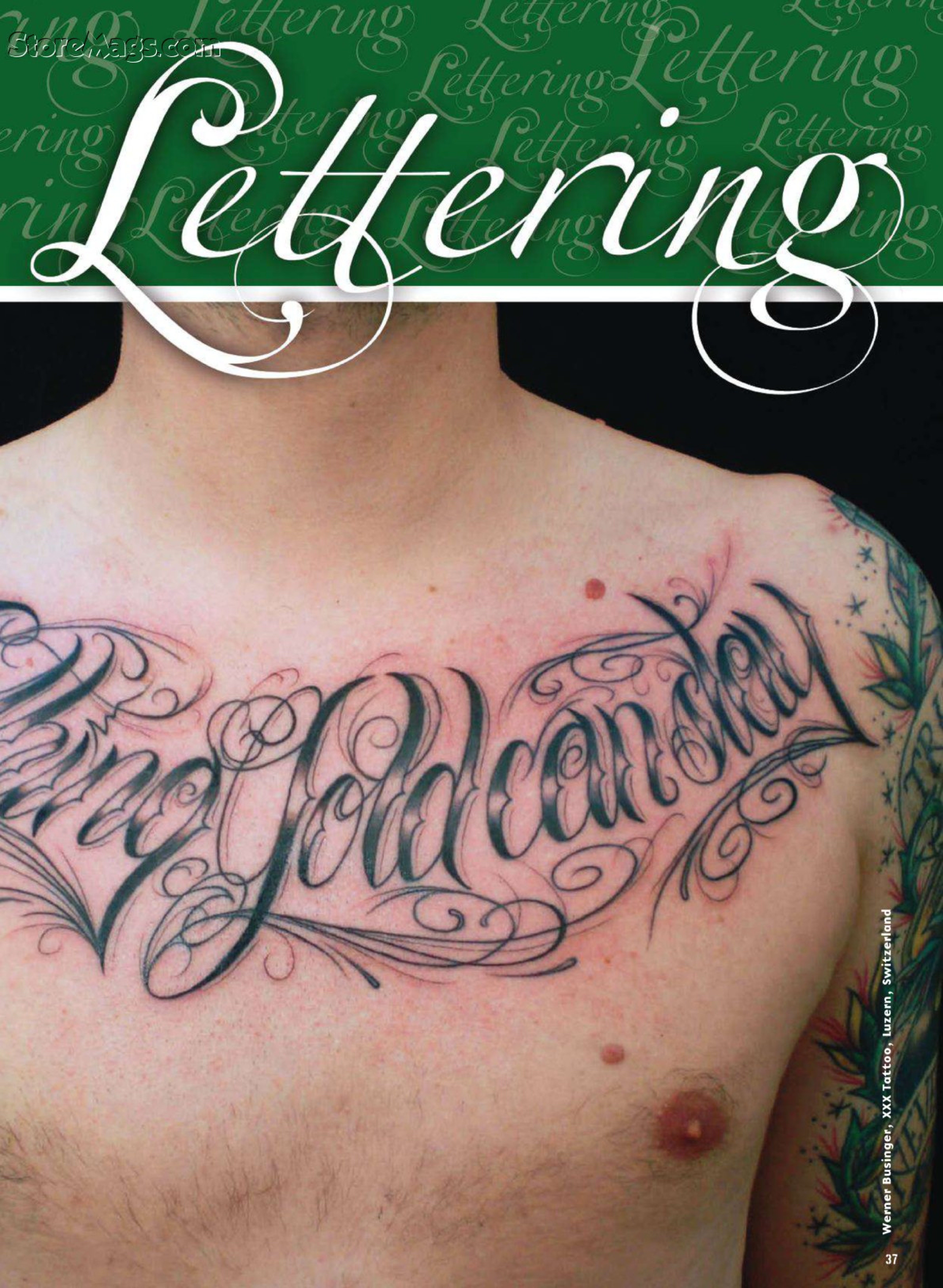
AND YOUR LAST FAMOUS WORDS ARE...?

Work hard and don't lose inspiration!









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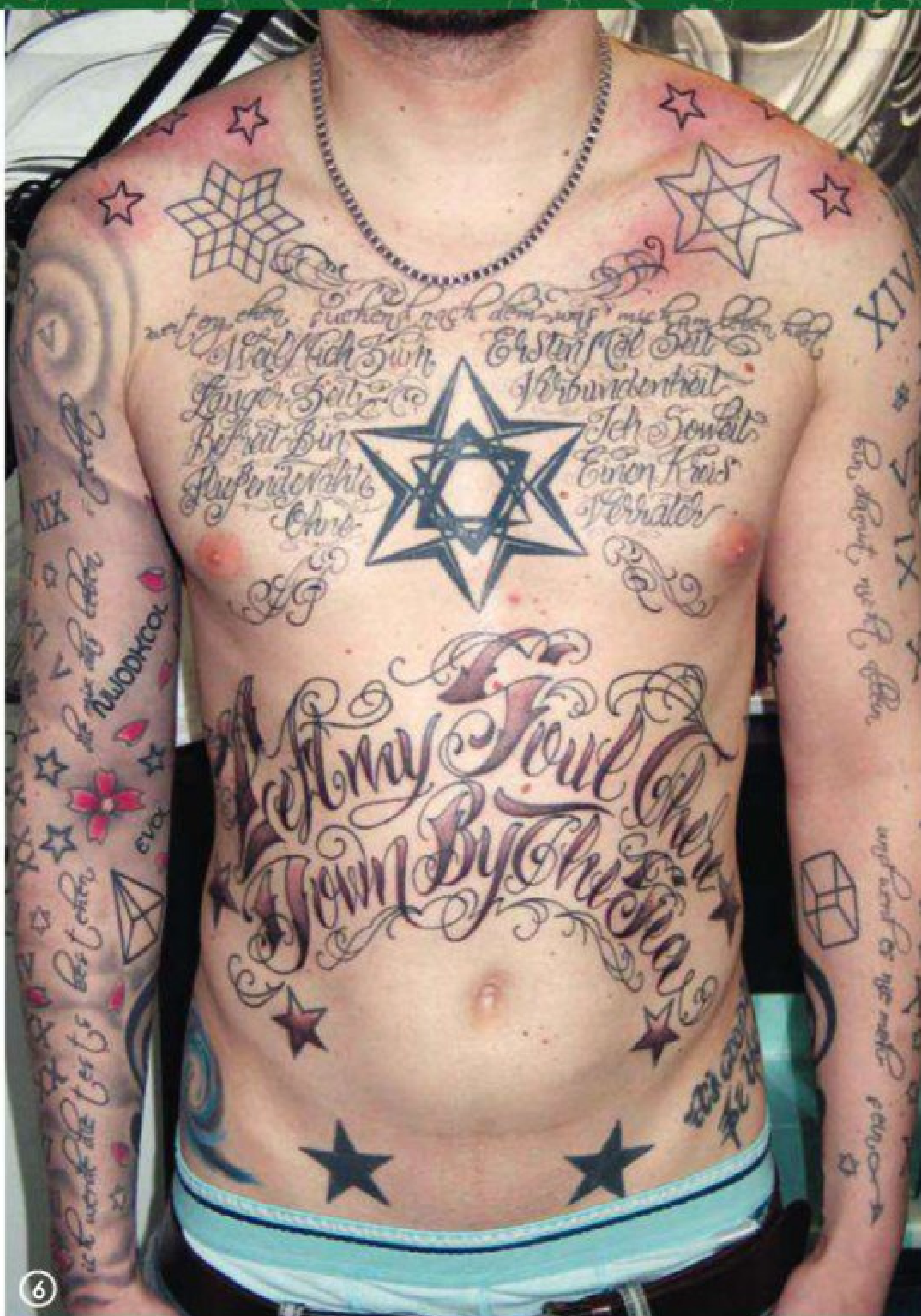
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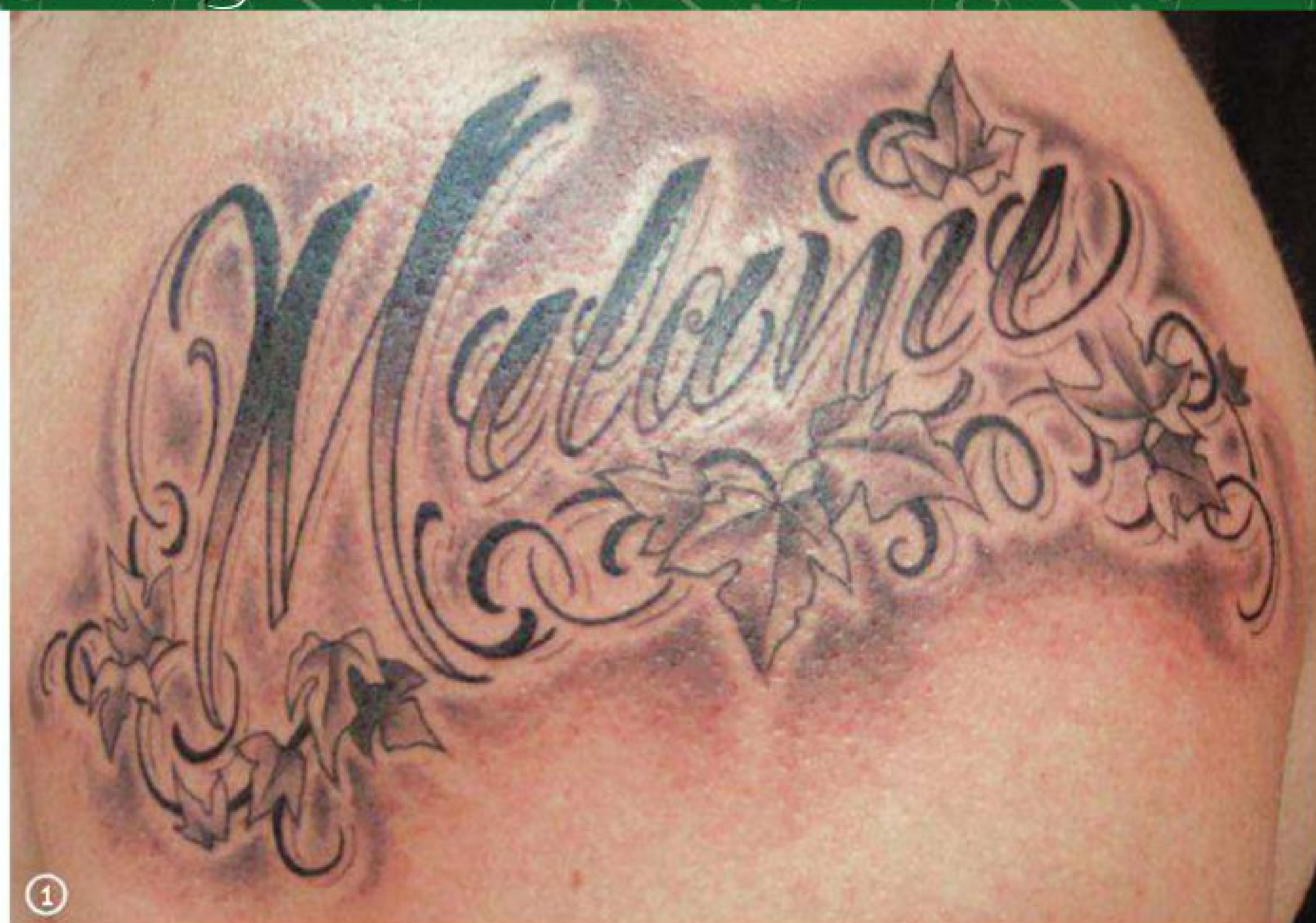


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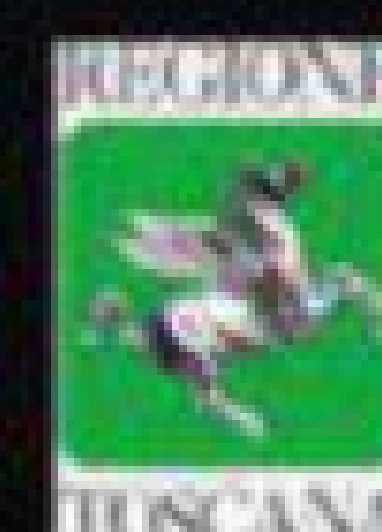
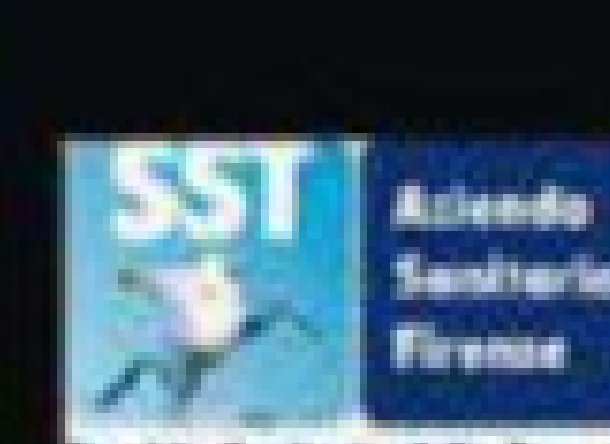
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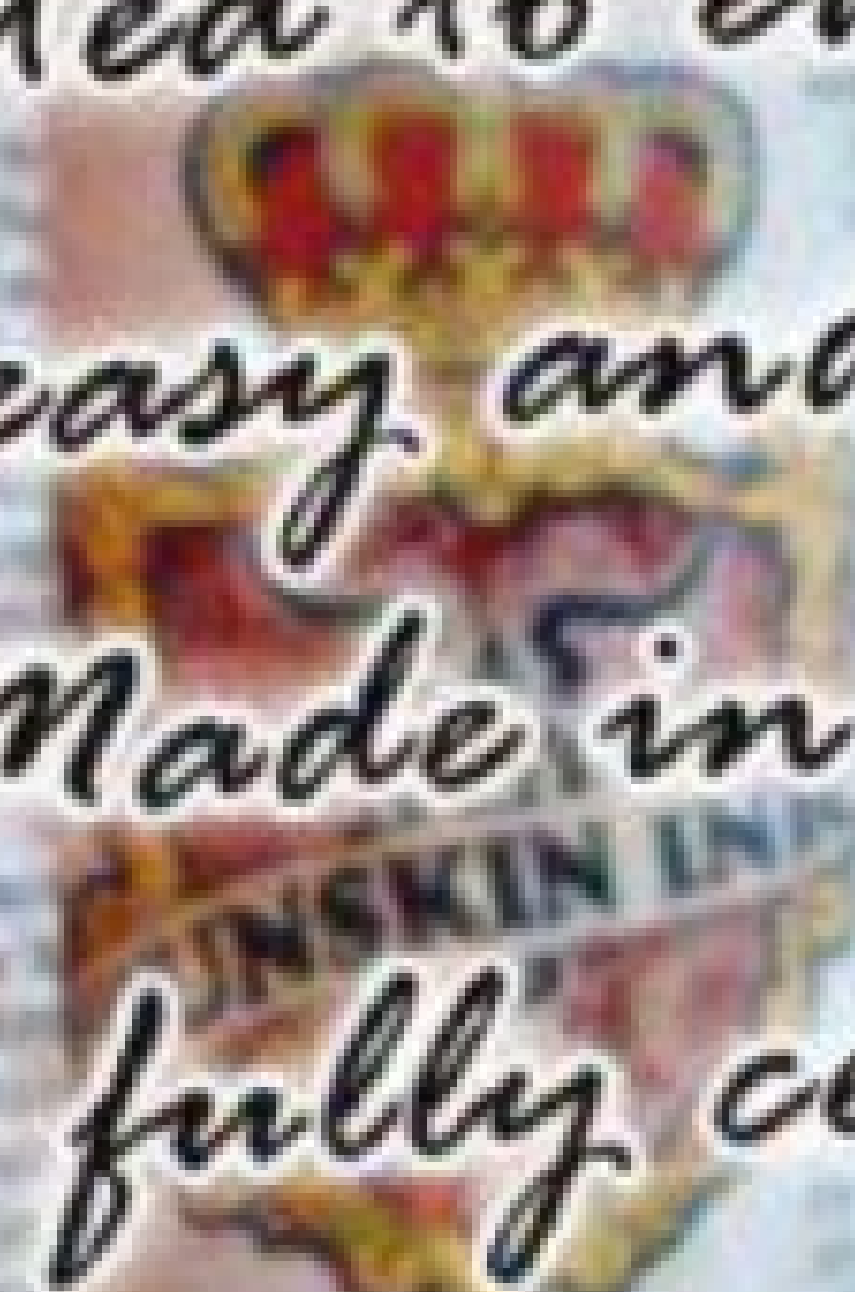
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DANA HELMUTH

Fly like a butterfly, sting like a bee!

A SABBATICAL TO FOCUS ON WHAT COUNTS, FALL IN LOVE WITH TATTOOS AGAIN AND COME BACK STRONGER THAN EVER TO RIDE THE WAVES OF TATTOO ART.

THIS IS WHAT DANA HELMUTH DID, EXPERT IN JAPANESE STYLE, A SOUL SEARCHING FOR FULFILLING ANSWERS AND A FUNKY-GROOVE MUSICIAN WITH HONEY SHINE. LET'S FIND OUT MORE...

Text by Simone Sacco





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HI DANA! LET'S START WITH THE FIRST QUESTIONS: HOW DID YOU DISCOVER DURING YOUR YOUTH THAT TATTOOING WOULD BE YOUR PROPER JOB?

Thank you for having me, it's my pleasure! You want to know how I started? Well, I think tattooing just sort of found me, and not vice versa. Once I "dove" in and began "swimming" I think it took a few years for me to even step back and realize. It consumes you...

JAPANESE IS YOUR FAVORITE STYLE - LIKE I SEE ON YOUR WORKS - OR DO YOU PREFER WORKING USING DIFFERENT APPROACHES?

I work mostly in that style, yes, it speaks to me very strongly. Let's say that I like the "melody".

WHERE DID YOU STUDY JAPANESE TECHNIQUE? DID YOU STUDY ON BOOKS, AT CONVENTIONS OR TRAVELLING AROUND EASTERN WORLD?

I think a combination of things. I read a lot and pay attention. I've also dedicated



my own skin to the art form, both tebori and machine, which is a tremendous opportunity to learn from craftsmen first hand. I think that sacrifice needs to be paid to open your mind to its fullest potential in a learning capacity.

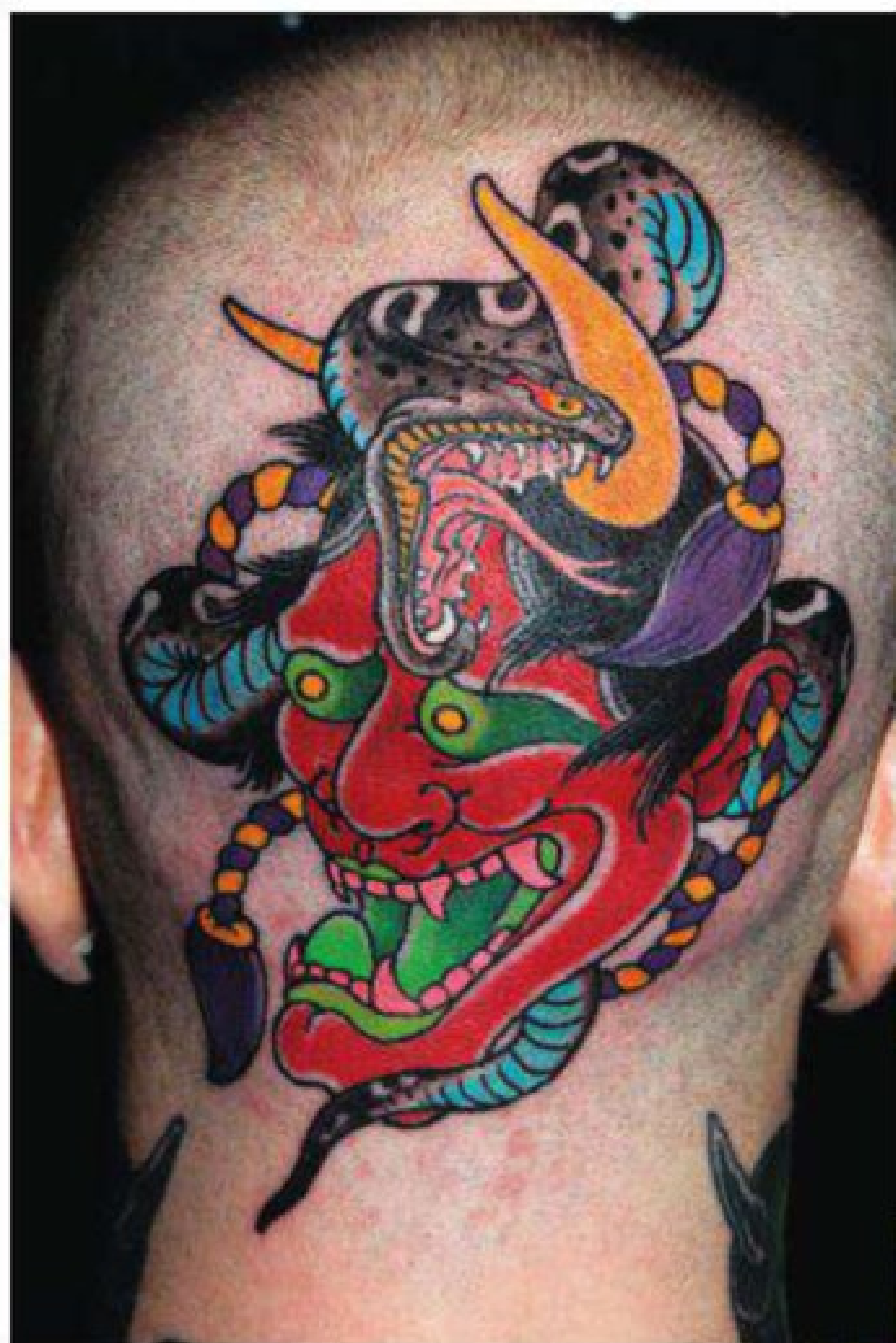
MAY YOU TELL ME YOUR PERSONAL TRICK WHEN YOU ARE WORKING ON A NEW TATTOO? DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE METHOD OF WORK?

I don't really have any cards up my sleeves. It's all just hard work. Day after day, year after year. Maybe patience is something that is an advantage. It's also important to separate yourself from the client and the tattoo you are doing on them. They are two different things. One is art and one is business.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE FORMULA OF A "PRIVATE STUDIO" IN MARYLAND RATHER THAN WORKING IN A NORMAL TATTOO SHOP OPEN TO THE PUBLIC?

I needed a new start and wanted to work without any distractions from outside





elements that I couldn't control on my own. My own music and thoughts and only the conversation I was engaged in. I came to a place where I felt so-called tattoo shops almost had nothing to do with tattooing remotely. They are strictly about business and I'm a terrible business person. I don't recommend this for anyone who hasn't been tattooing over ten years at least. So to fall back in love with tattooing I dropped out of the tattoo scene for over a year to just tattoo and it worked! Now I have gone back to working at a shop with good friends where I have my own space and it's good. I am working from Independent Tattoo in Fenwick Island, Delaware about four miles from the Atlantic ocean.

IN YOUR OPINION IS THE TATTOO SCENE



GOOD IN MARYLAND?

I don't really know! (he laughs). I just do tattoos and have my life and do not get involved with that stuff.

WHO HAS BEEN, FOR DANA ELMUTH, THE GREATEST TATTOO ARTIST OF ALL TIMES? OR THE GREATEST...

Well on a personal level the greatest have been Horizakura from the great Horitoshi I family, and Mike Roper from Tempe, Arizona. They have taught me the most. As far as 'the greatest' of all time, that is easy, without a question Filip Leu is the greatest tattooer of all time. He can tattoo any style, freehand, in half the time and twice as good technically as any other tattooer, and with a smile and a laugh. Watch him some time if you haven't. Walk away and come back in an hour





to look again and you won't believe how much has been accomplished. That's just the truth, his level of craftsmanship in tattooing is unparalleled.

LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR BAND, HONEY SHINE: WHICH IS YOUR MUSICAL GENRE? PLAYING IN A BAND IS HARD WHEN ONE IS A TATTOO-ARTIST.

For me I have a lot to express and it finds different ways to get out there thankfully. Playing guitar is like flying for me, floating over the beat and melody, pure bliss. It's been my favorite thing since I was nine years old and when I feel most comfortable. It's a necessity. High tide or low tide it's always been there. Honey Shine is a funky groove trio with extended jams. A real good time. I do guitar and vocals. The band has been doing very well and playing a tremendous amount of

shows in the mid-Atlantic area. I am very grateful!

SINCE WE SPOKE ABOUT MUSIC, WHICH IS YOUR FAVORITE SOUNDTRACK WHEN YOU'RE TATTOOING?

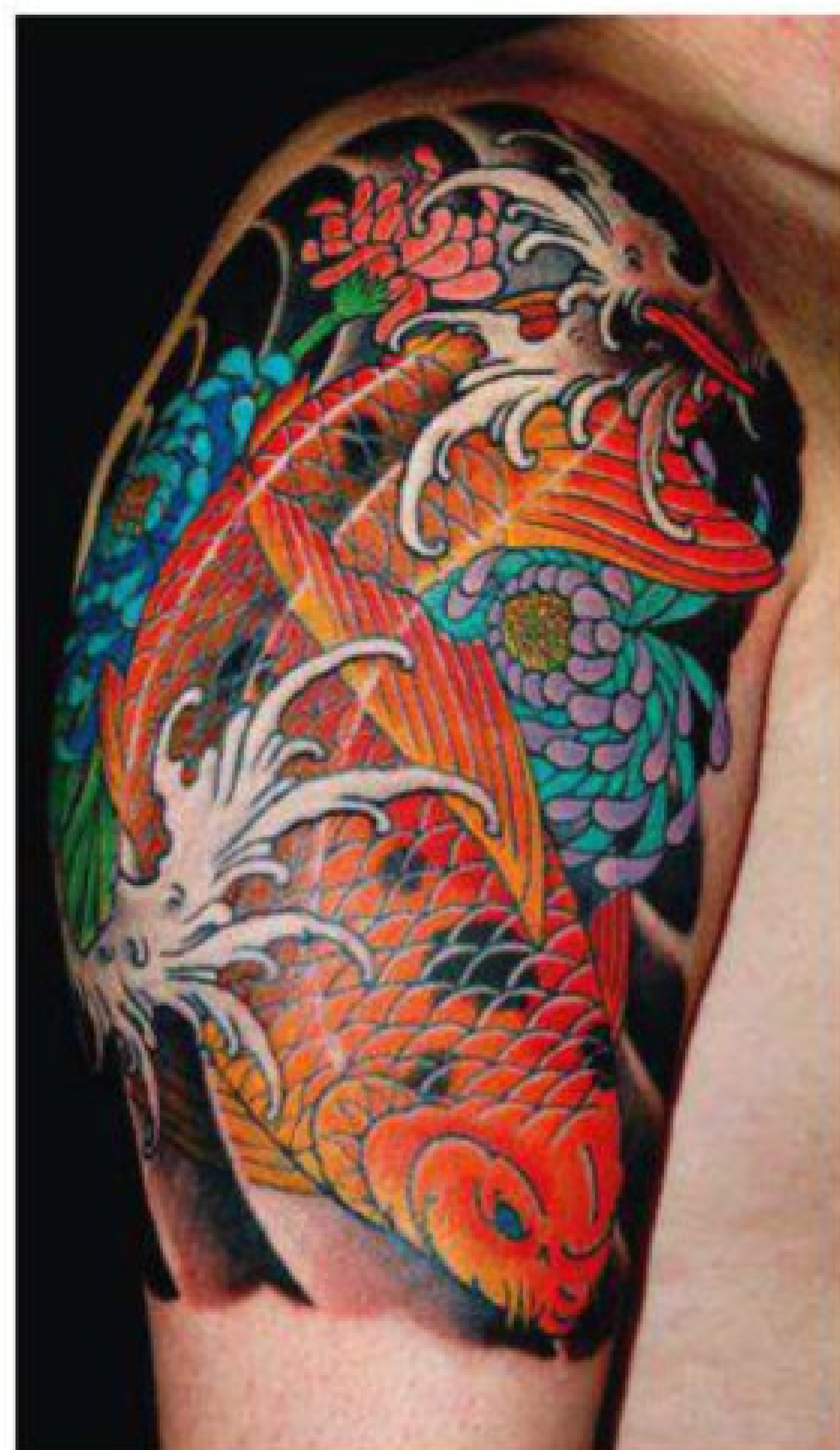
I have a very diverse collection of music. There are always a lot of blues, jazz, Zappa, soul, afro beat, reggae, dead, lots of stuff. Not much heavy music while working anymore I think it puts too much tension in the room. Sometimes I just like listening to instrumental music when I'm tattooing. Foreign movie soundtracks are great. Then the music is like the soundtrack to your thoughts.

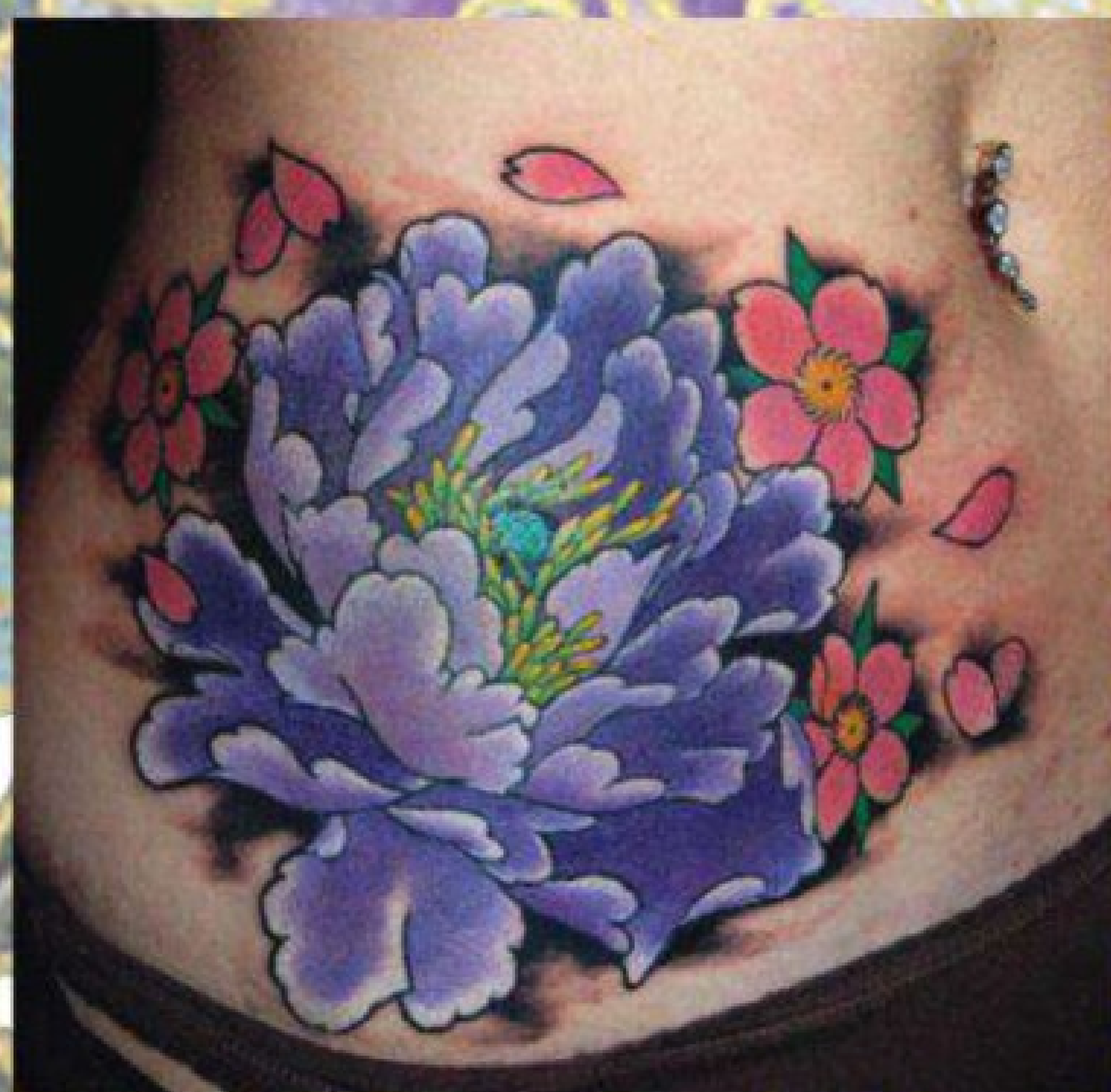
WILL YOU VISIT SOME NEW CONVENTIONS THIS FALL AND WILL YOU MAKE SOME GUEST-SPOTS AROUND THE STATES IN THE SAME PERIOD?

I don't care for conventions much anymore, but I do plan to do the London convention this year. That's where I'll be at the end of September.

DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL "SLOGAN" TO END THIS INTERVIEW?

Yes, fly like a butterfly, sting like a bee...







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O'Reilly Tattoo
Santa Cruz, USA

⑥ Joe Capobianco
Hope Gallery Tattoo
New Haven, USA



① Jason June
Three kings Tattoo
NYC, USA

② Germana Pavan
Pink PantherTattoo
Aviano, Italy

③ Lenu
Alien Tattoo
Walbrzych, Poland

④ Claude
L'Ile Aux Tatouages
Lille, France





FANTASY



⑤ Stilian Smokov
Smokov Tattoo
Sofia, Bulgaria

⑥ Teresa Sharpe
Studio 13
Fortwayne, USA

⑦ Klem
O'Reilly's Tattoo
Santa Cruz, USA

⑧ Pierrot
Tatouage 13 bis
Lyon, France



① Betty
Nico Tattoo
Athens, Greece

② Roman
Artistic Element
Yucaipa, USA

③ Daniele Angiulli
Skin Art Tattoo
Lecce, Italy

④ Ivana Belakova
Bondi Ink
Sydney, Australia





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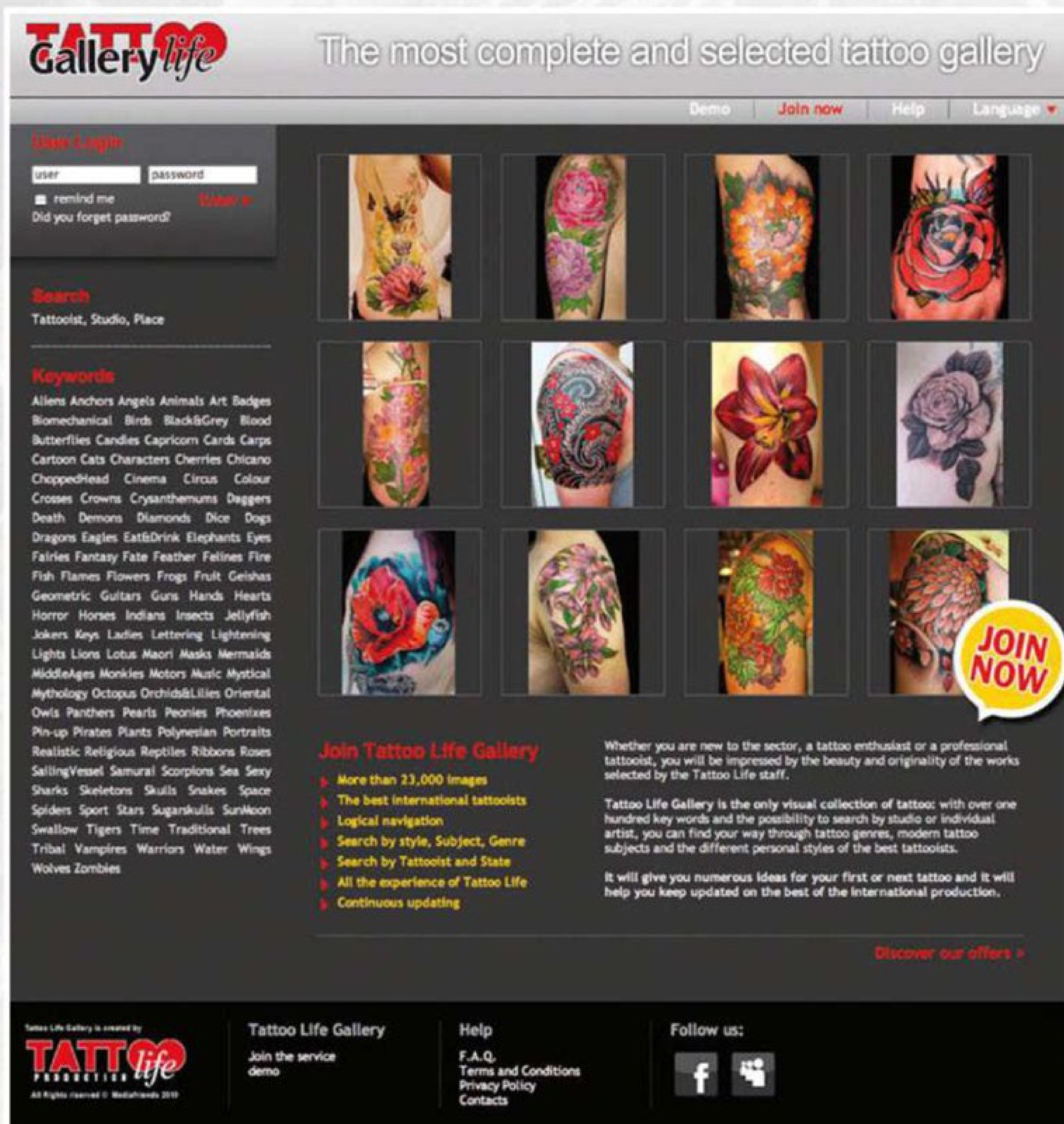
⑤ Bryan Childs
Spidermonkey Tattoos
Olympia, USA

⑥ Louis Molloy
Middleton Tattoo Studio
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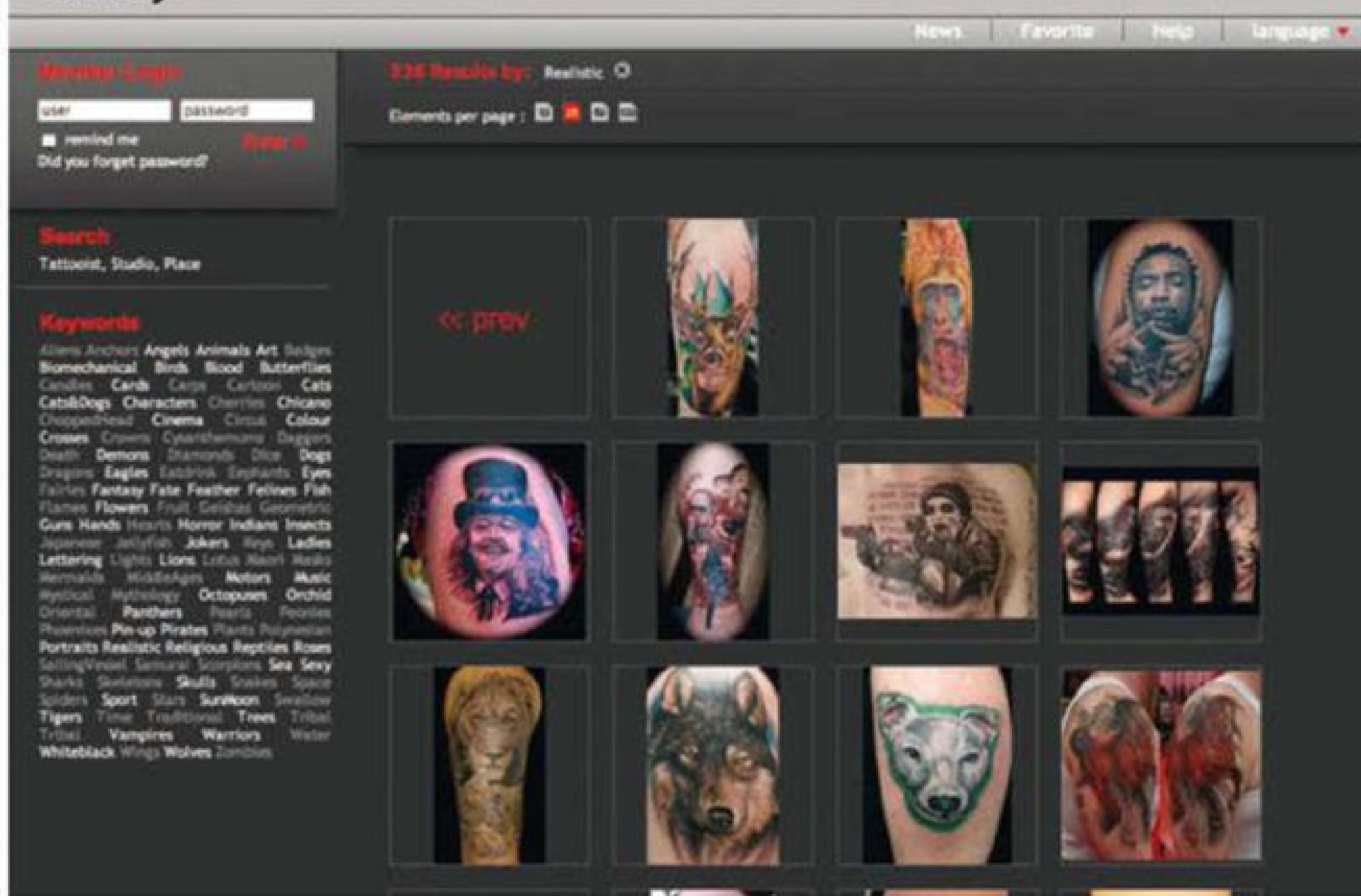


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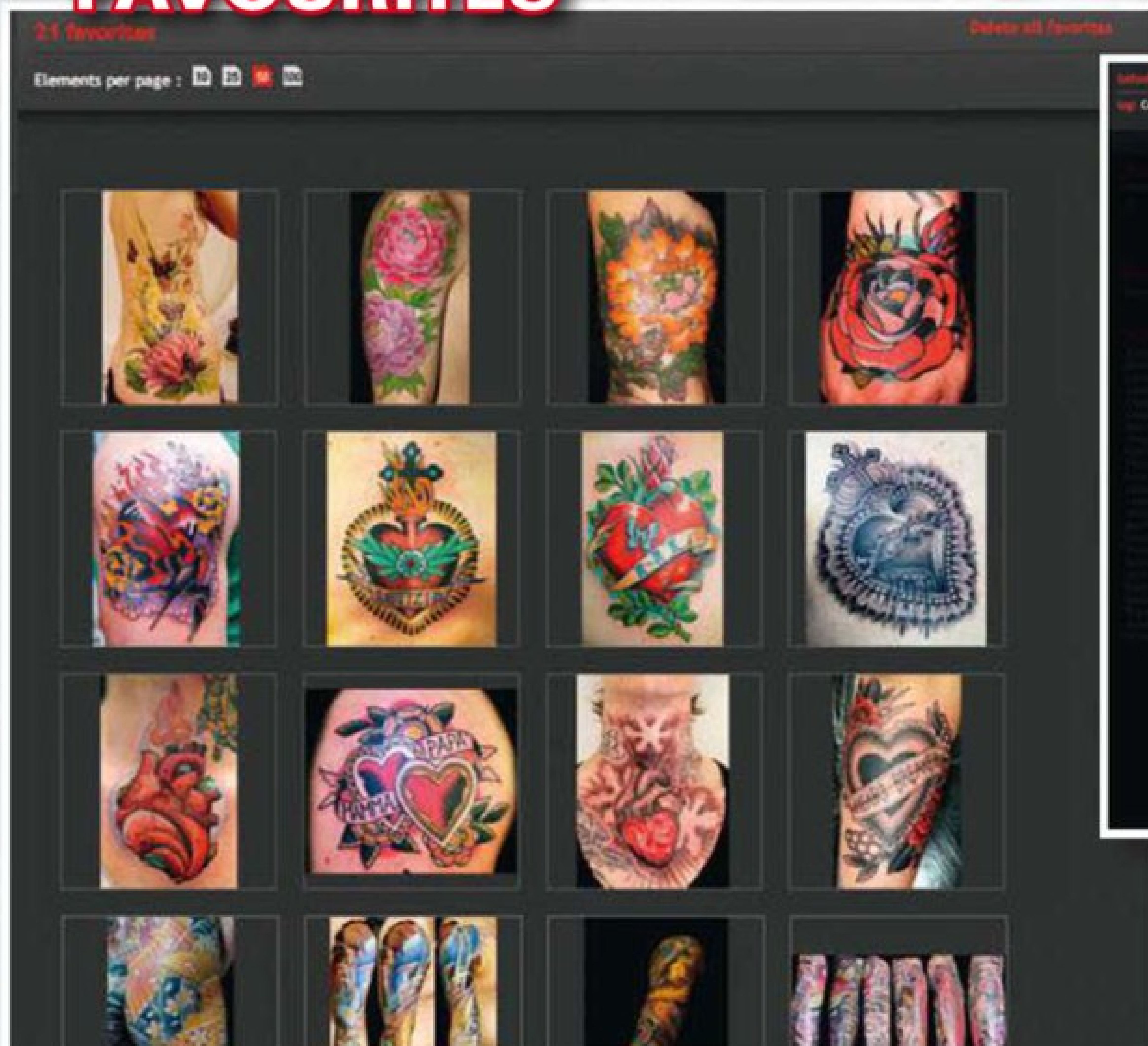
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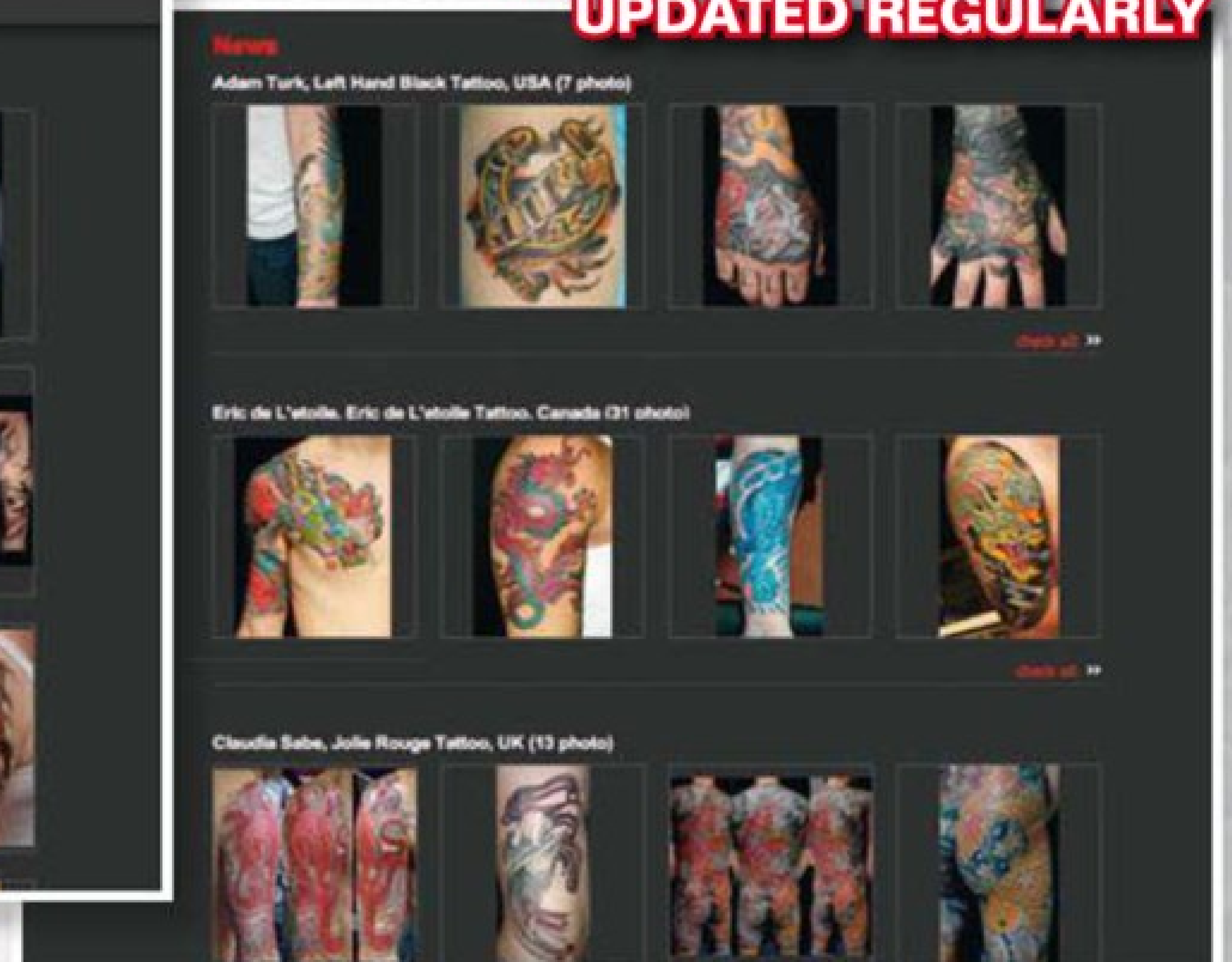


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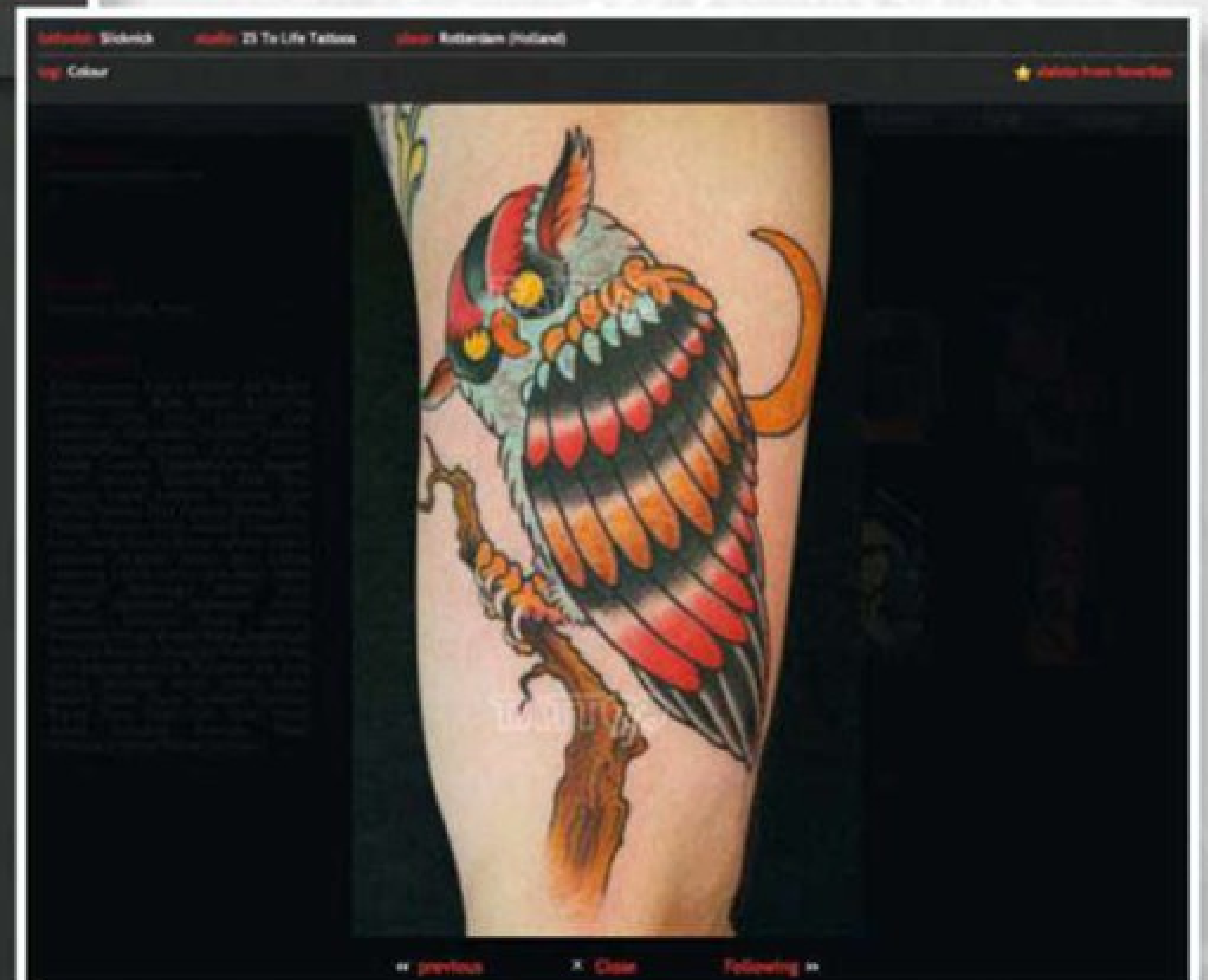
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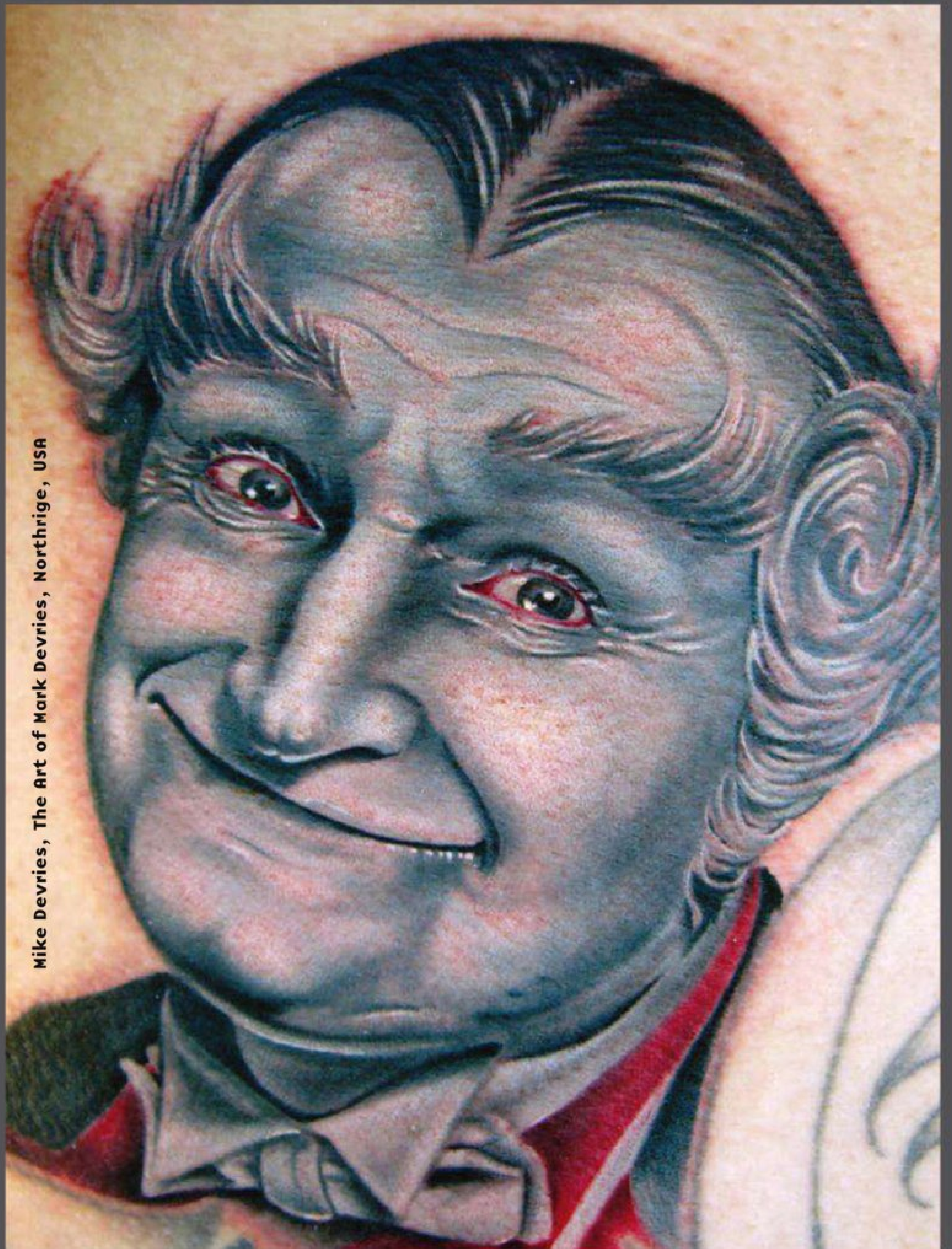
Darcy Nutt, Chalice Tattoo, Boise, USA





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Mike Devries, The Art of Mark Devries, Northridge, USA

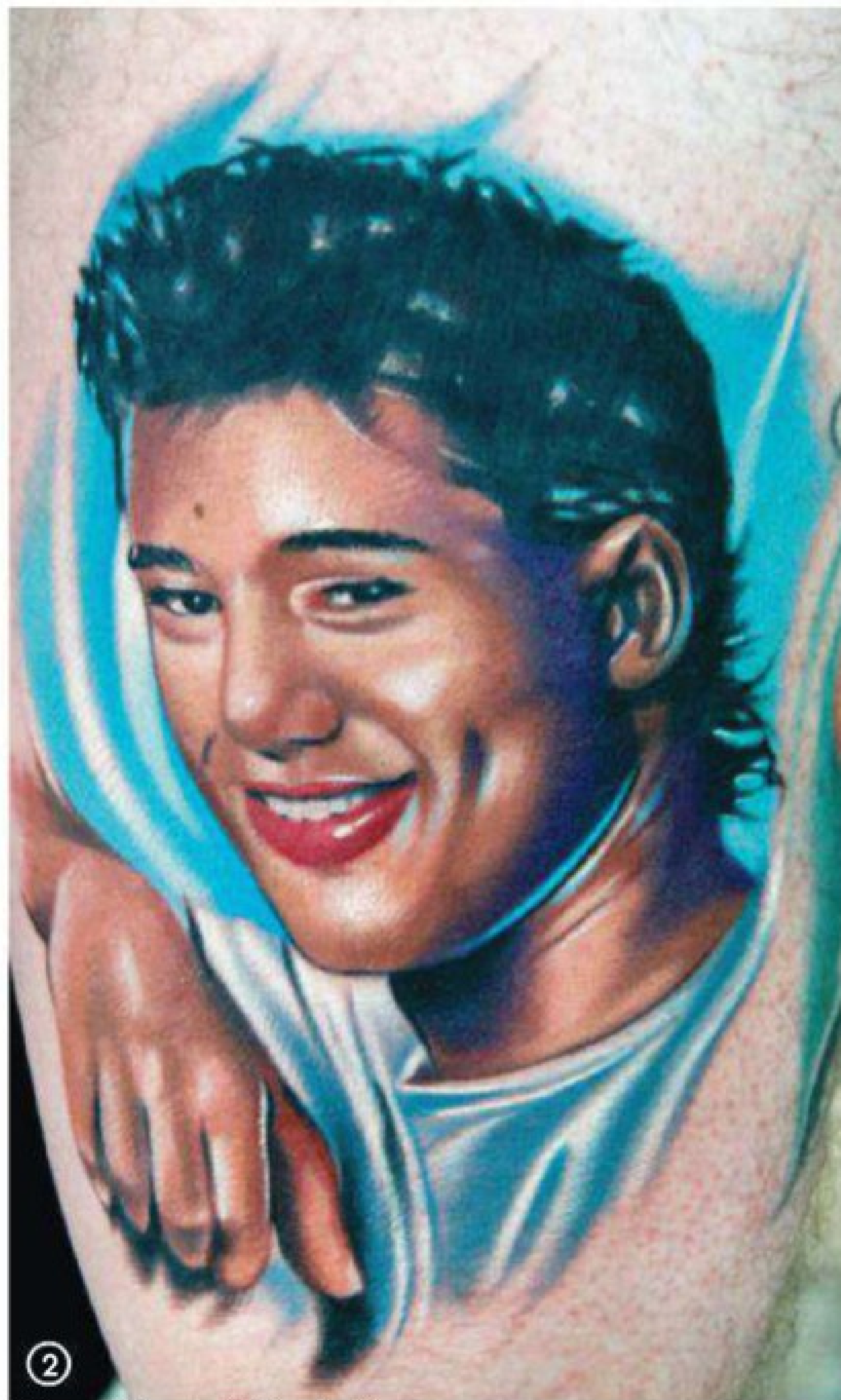


Portraits

① Csaba Mullner
Nadelwerk Tattoo
Wels, Austria

② Aric Taylor
Art Junkies Tattoo
Hesperia, USA

③ Fonzy
Inkshot Tattoo
Fullerton, USA





④



⑤

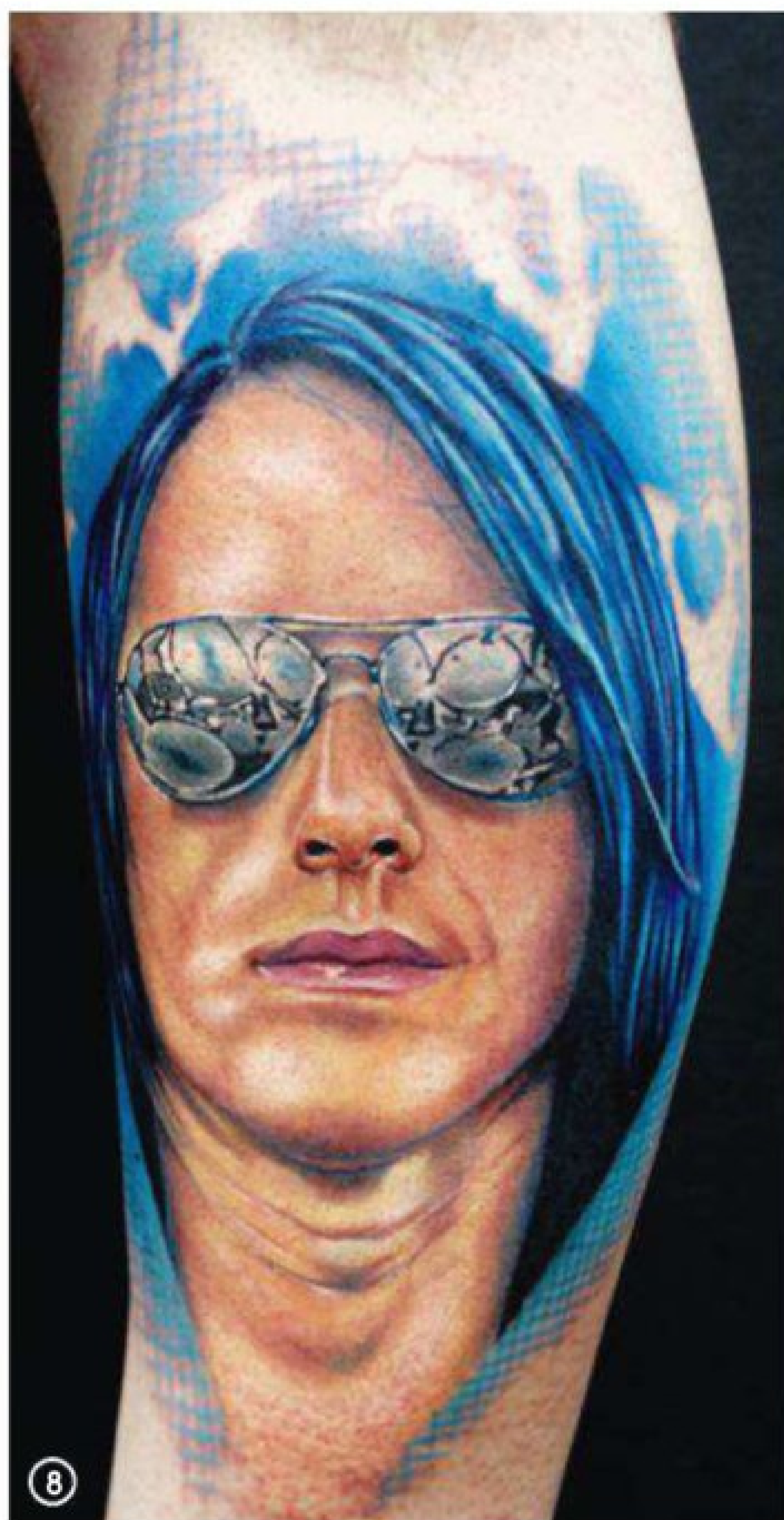


⑥

Portraits



⑦



⑧

④ Carlos Torres
Good Fellas Tattoo
Orange, USA

⑤ Antonio Todisco
Macko Tattoo
Monopoli, Italy

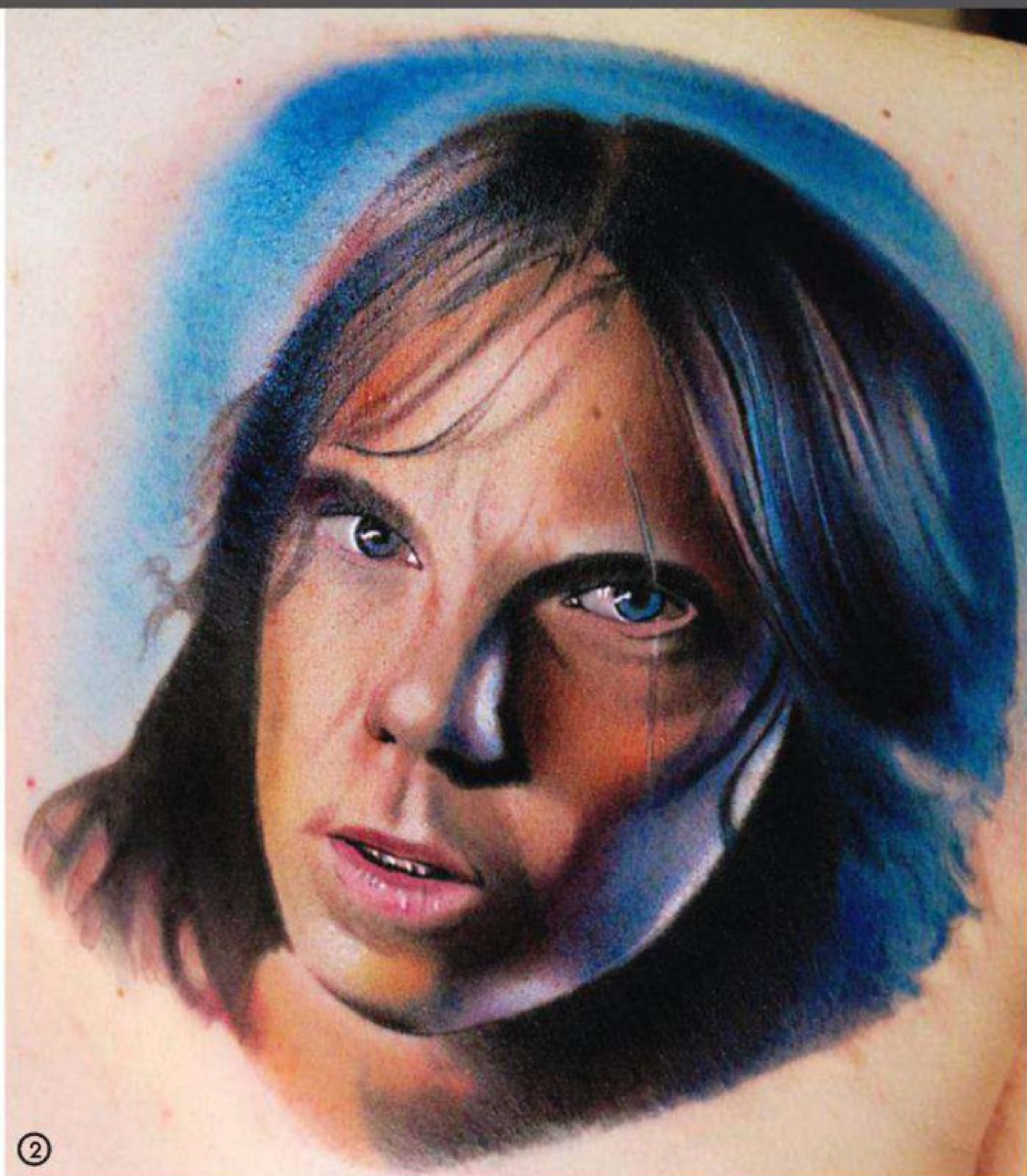
⑥ Henrik
Henrik Tattoo
Toulouse, France

⑦ Betty
Nico Tattoo
Athens, Greece

⑧ Cecil Porter
Under The Gun Tattoo
Los Angeles, USA



①



②

Portraits

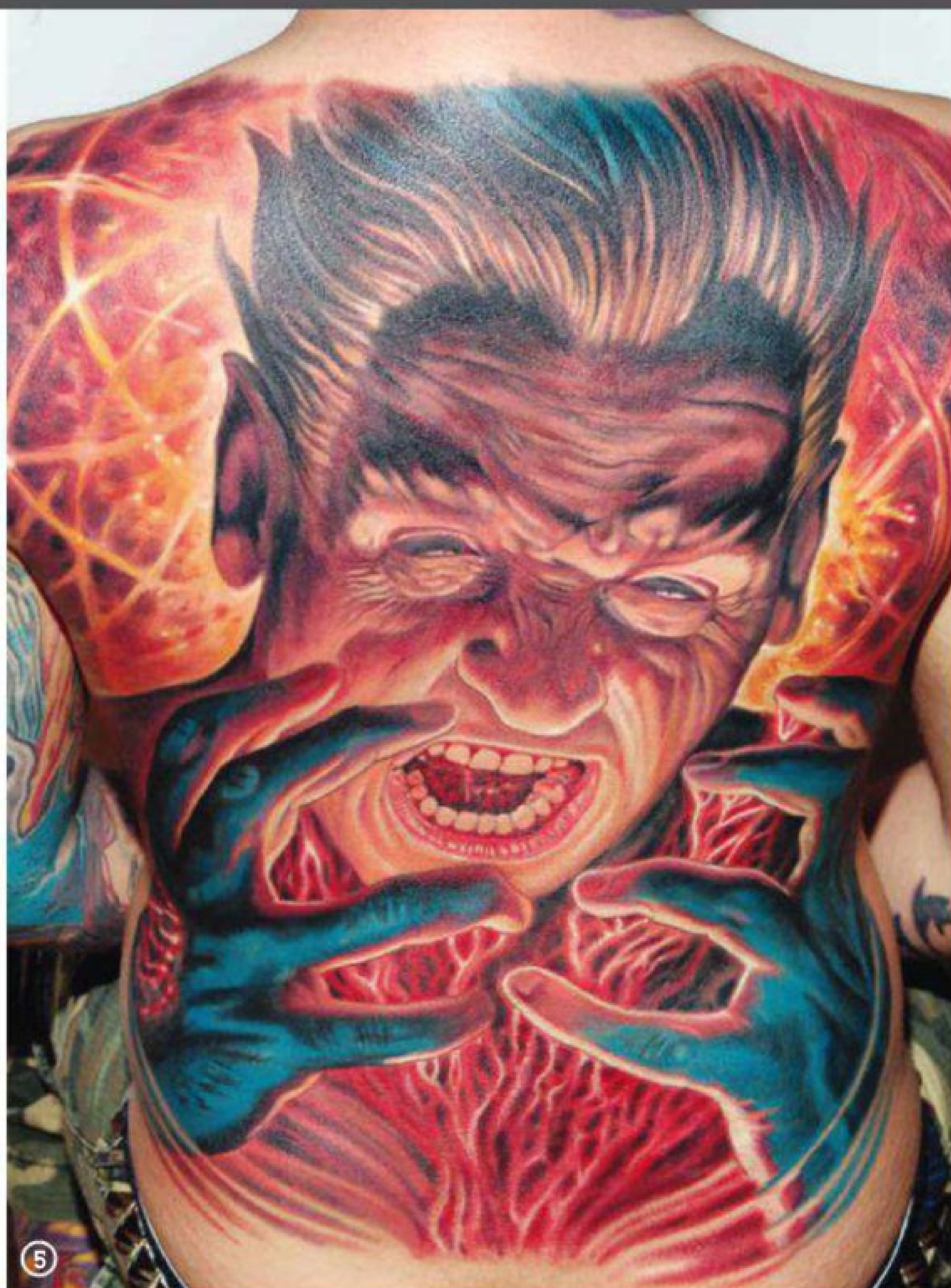
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Tattoosarkazm Custom
Tattoo Shop
Moscow, Russia
- ② Andrea Afferni
Andrea Afferni Tattoo
Novara, Italy
- ③ George Mavridis
Tattooligans
Thessaloniki, Greece
- ④ Bryan Childs
Spidermonkey Tattoos
Olympia, USA



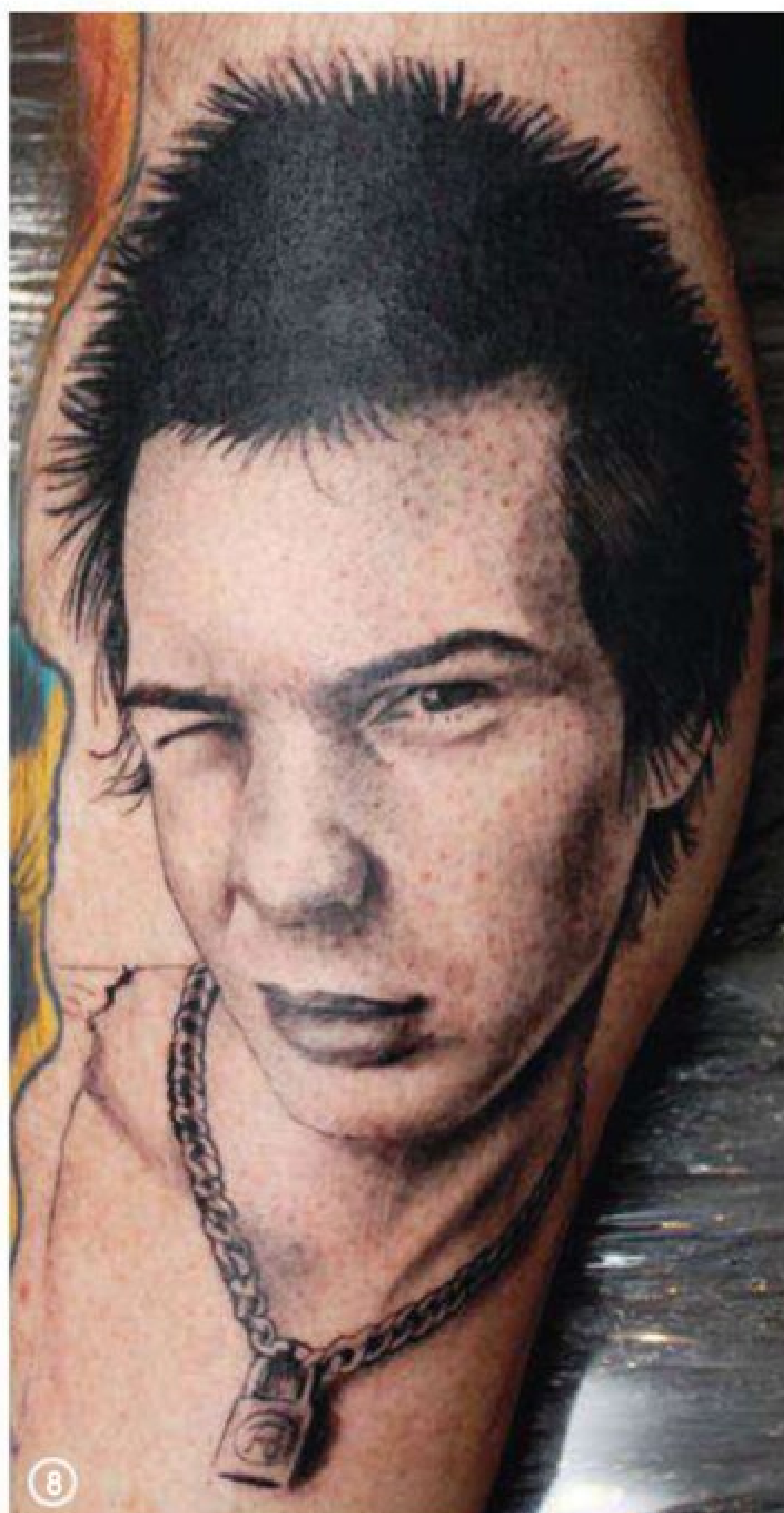
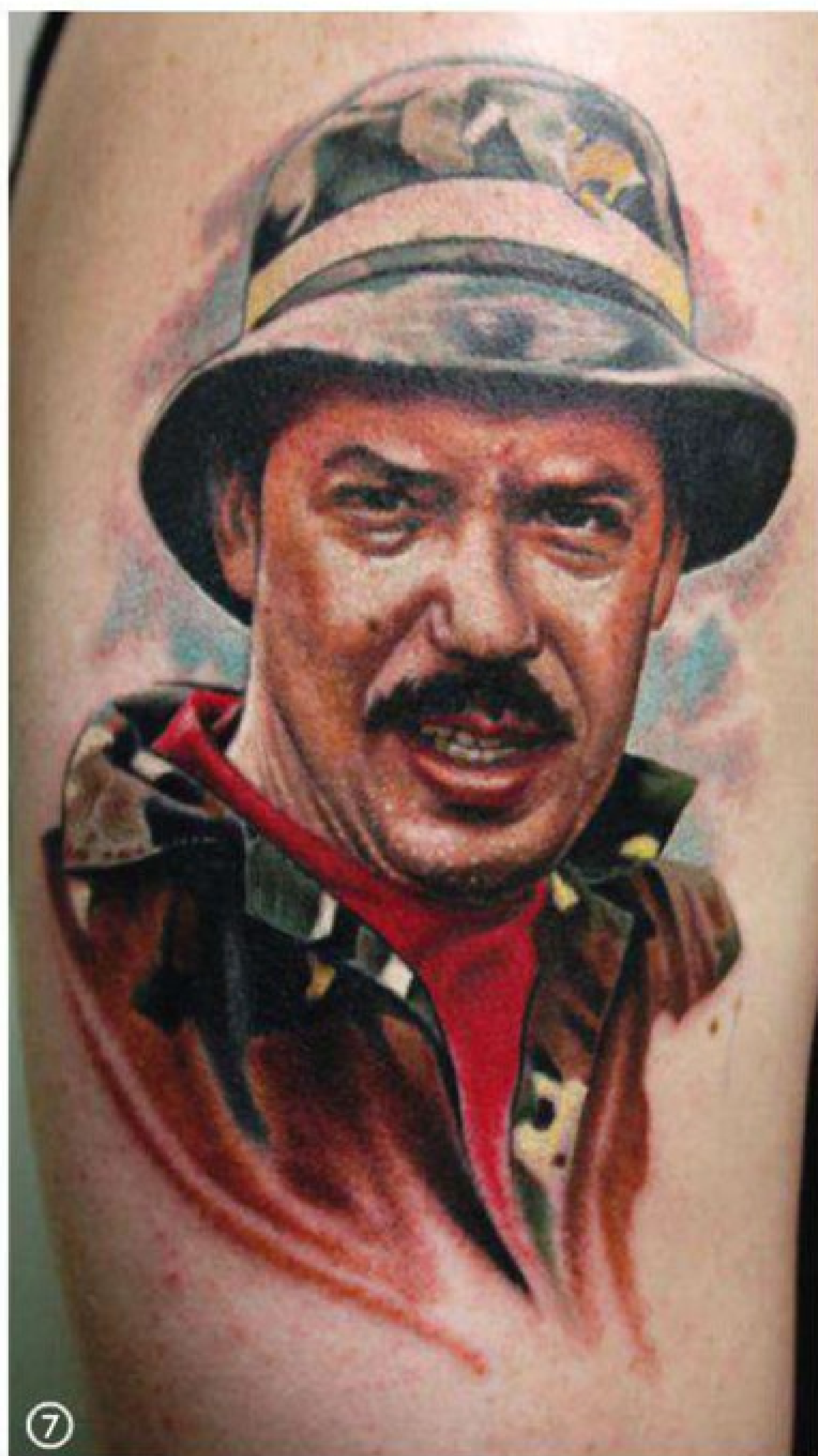
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④



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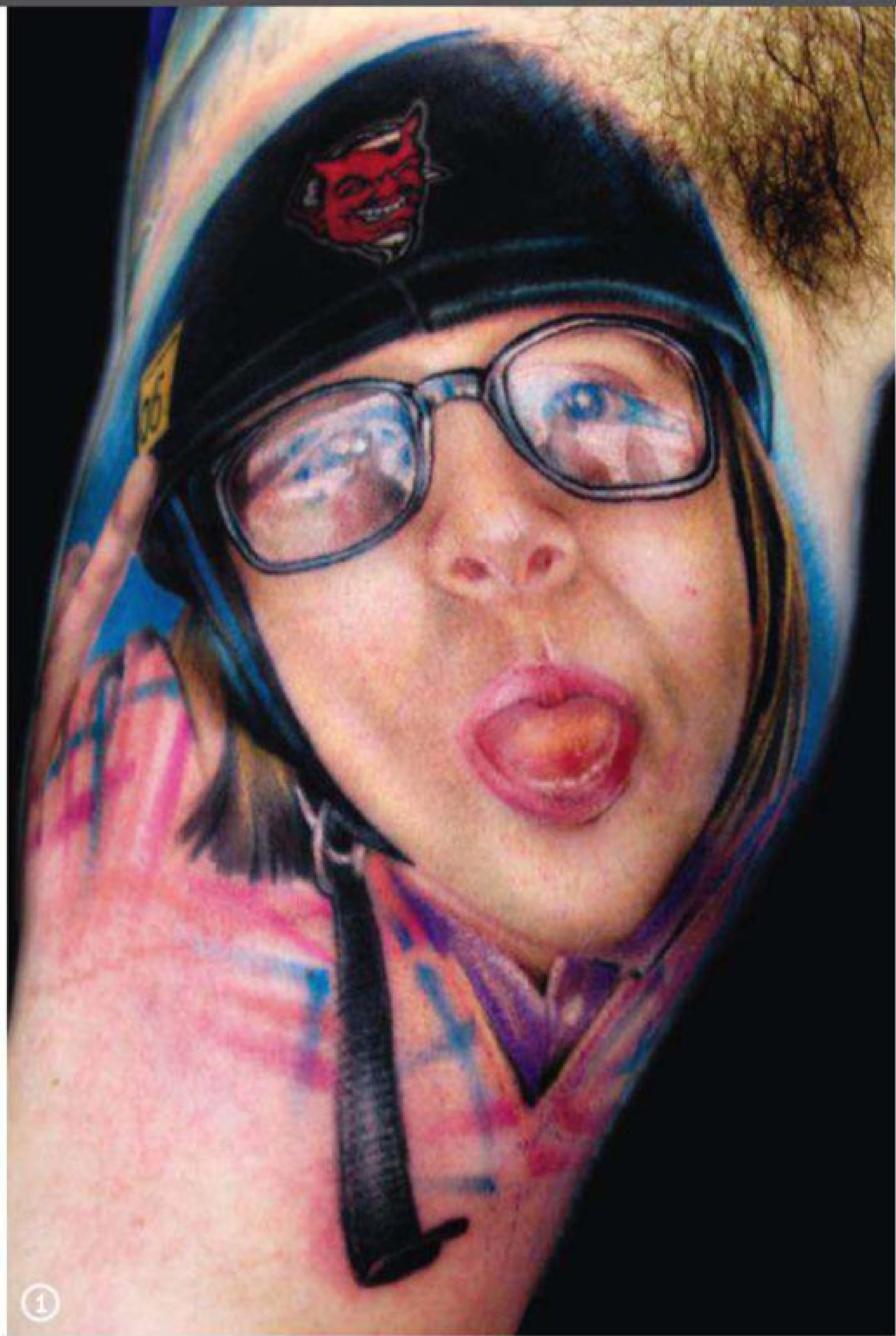


⑤ Boris
Boris Tattoo
Zalaegerszeg, Hungary

⑥ Andy Engel
Andy's Tattoo
Kitzingen, Germany

⑦ Matthew Hockaday
Dixie Tattoo
Waterford, USA

⑧ Dimitri Hk
Dimitri Tatouage
Saint-Germain-en-Laye
France



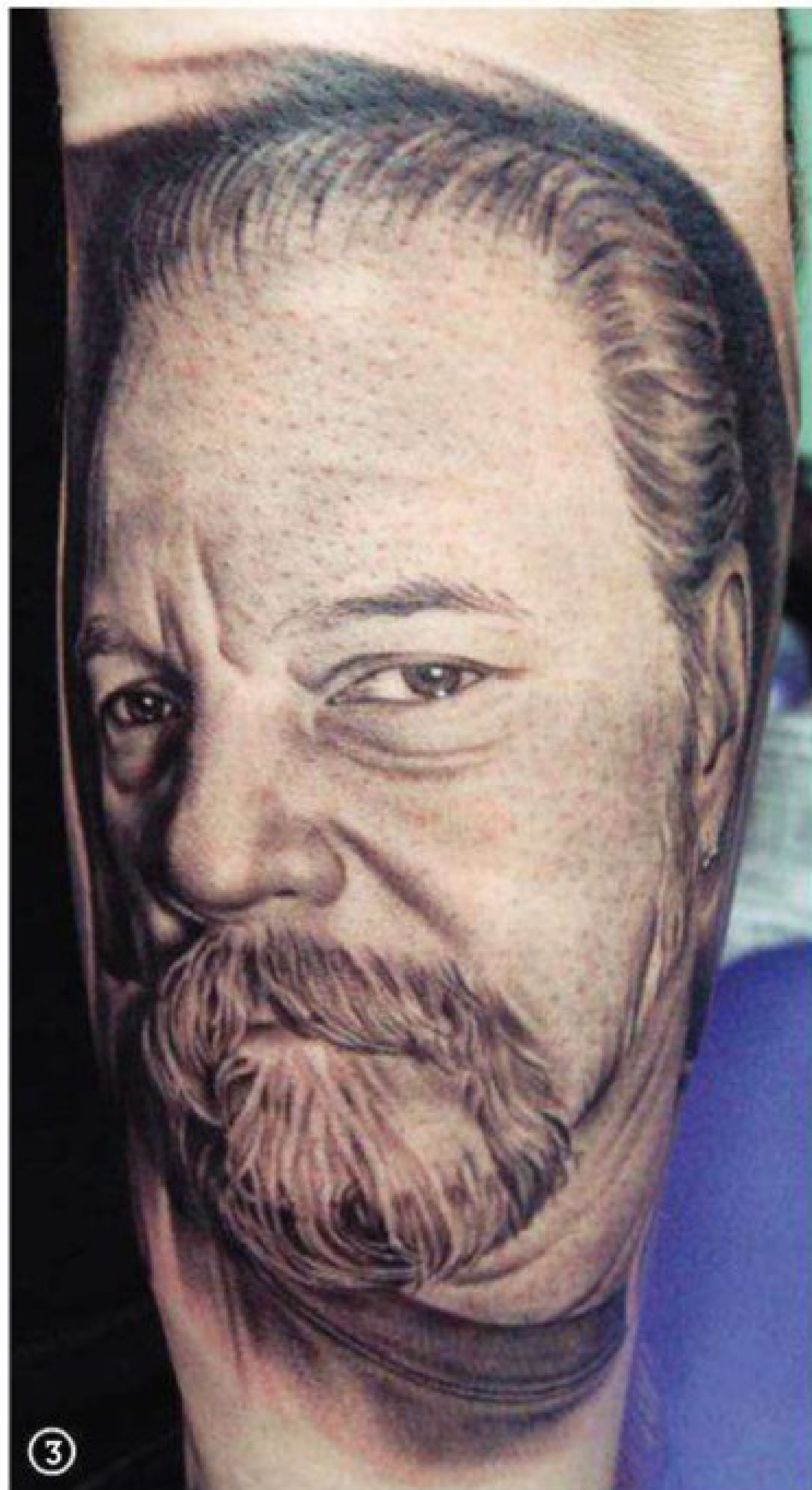
Portraits

❶ Khan
Kids Love Ink
Hokkaido, Japan

❷ Alex De Pase
Alex De Pase Tattoo
Grado, Italy

❸ Bob Tyrrell
Night Gallery
Detroit, USA

❹ Ivana Belakova
Bondi Ink
Sydney, Australia





Portraits

- ⑤ Cory Norris
Classic Tattoo
Grass Valley, USA
- ⑥ Randy Engelhard
Heaven of Colours
Zwickau, Germany
- ⑦ Guil Zekri
Reinkarnation Tattoo
Cologne, Germany
- ⑧ Chris Danley
Forever Tattoo
Sacramento, USA

HORROR

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Tye Harris, On the road, Austin, USA



Tim Kern, Tribulation Tattoo, New York, USA



①



②

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① Andy Engel
Andy's Tattoo
Kitzingen, Germany

② Lenu
Alien Tattoo
Walbrzych, Poland

③ Jack Ribeiro
Jack Ribeiro Tattoo
Mets, France

④ Juan Salgado
Color Conspiracy
Tattoo Gallery
Guaynabo, Puerto Rico



③



④



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⑤ Roman
Artistic Element
Yucaipa, USA

⑥ Javi Castano
LTW Tattoo
Barcelona, Spain

⑦ Bryan Childs
Spidermonkey Tattoos
Olympia, USA



①



②

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① Tim Victim
Art Machine Productions
Philadelphia, USA

② Christian Perez
Hope Gallery Tattoo
New Haven, USA

③ Boris
Boris Tattoo
Zalaegerszeg, Hungary

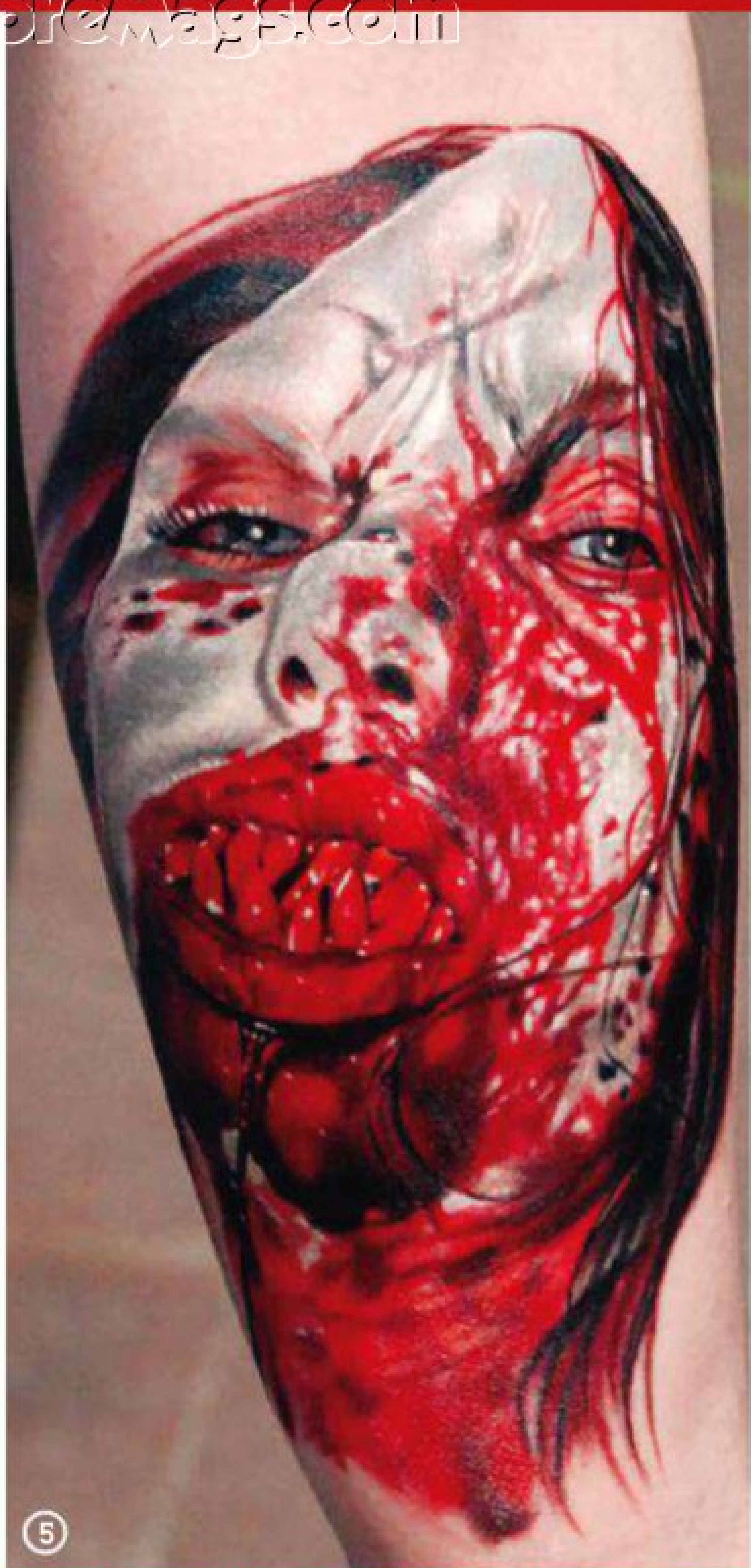
④ Joao Bosco
Self Sacrifice Tattoo
London, UK



③



④



⑤



⑥



⑦

HORROR HORROR HORROR HORROR HORROR



⑧

⑤ Ron
5-7-0 Tattooing Co
Wikes-Barre, USA

⑥ Edu Cerru
O'Reilly Tattoo
Santa Cruz, USA

⑦ Alex
Dirty Roses
Thessalonki, Greece

⑧ Volko
Buena Vista Tattoo Club
Würzburg, Germany



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① Jason Kunz
Triumph Tattoo
Burlington, USA

② Dan Sinnes
At Woods Tattoo Crew
Luxembourg, Luxembourg

③ Csaba Mullner
Nadelwerk Tattoo
Wels, Austria





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④ Diego Morales
Tin Tin Tatouages
Paris, France

⑤ Robert Hernandez
Vittamin Tattoo
Madrid, Spain

⑥ Joe Capobianco
Hope Gallery Tattoo
New Haven, USA

⑦ George Bardadim
Bardadim Tattoo
Bonn, Germany

CHOOSE YOUR FLASH

Styles, trends, creations, history, memories, passions. A melting pot from which to pick the tattoo subjects you've always dreamed of having, for the first or umpteenth meeting of your skin with the machine of your favorite tattoo artist. There will be loads of new proposals every month, in colour and in black

and white, which we select for you from material sent to the staff. A column rich in imagination that combines iconographic material coming from both famous tattooists and emerging young talent alike. We are also anxiously waiting for your designs, to reveal the forms and colours that give life to your fervent imagination.

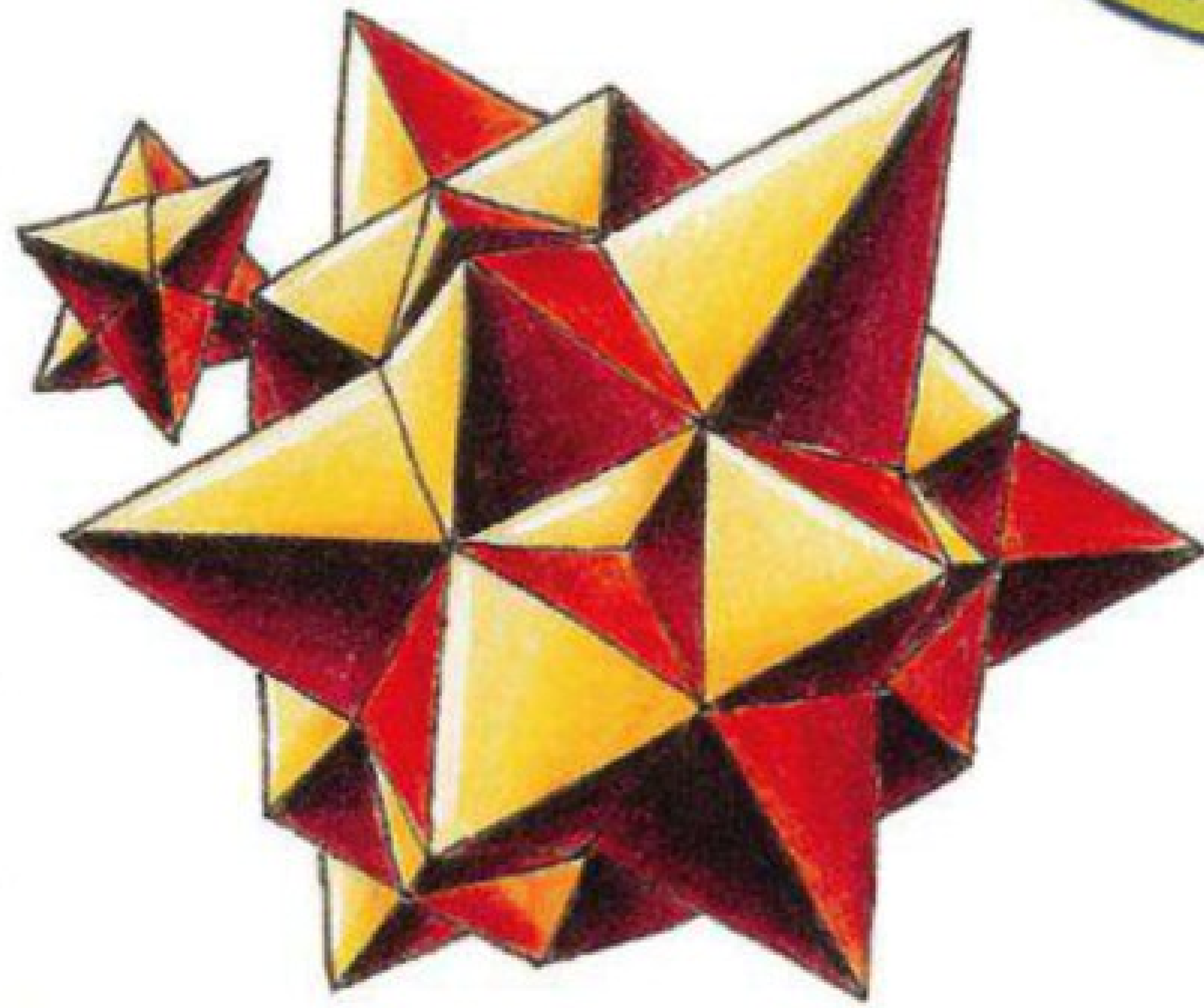


Nello, Zona Kaos, Catania, Italy



Tim McAlary, Gold Rush Tattoo, Costa Mesa, USA

Tim Pangburn, Deep Six Laboratory, Philadelphia, USA



Tim McAlary, Gold Rush Tattoo, Costa Mesa, USA

Mallo, La bottega dei Tatuaggi, Ostia, Italy



Vladimir, Tattoo & Art, Stenungsund, Sweden



Vladimir, Tattoo & Art, Stenungsund, Sweden

Nello, Zona Kaos, Catania, Italy



Short, All Or Nothing Tattoo, Atlanta, USA



Bill Loika, Tattoo Peter, Amsterdam, Holland



Yang, East Tattoo, Taiwan, Taiwan



Woody, Woody's Tattoo, High Wycombe, UK



Patrick Sans, Burly Fish Tattoo, Flagstaff, USA

Tim McAlary, Gold Rush Tattoo, Costa Mesa, USA



Tim McAlary, Gold Rush Tattoo, Costa Mesa, USA



Vladimir, Tattoo & Art, Stenungsund, Sweden

Shaun Topper, Da Vinci Tattoo, Wantagh, USA



T Massari, Electric Soul Tattooing, Lancaster, USA



Vladimir, Tattoo & Art, Stenungsund, Sweden



Tim McAlary, Gold Rush Tattoo, Costa Mesa, USA

Tim Pangburn, Deep Six Laboratory, Philadelphia, USA



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Bill Loika, Tattoo Peter, Amsterdam, Holland

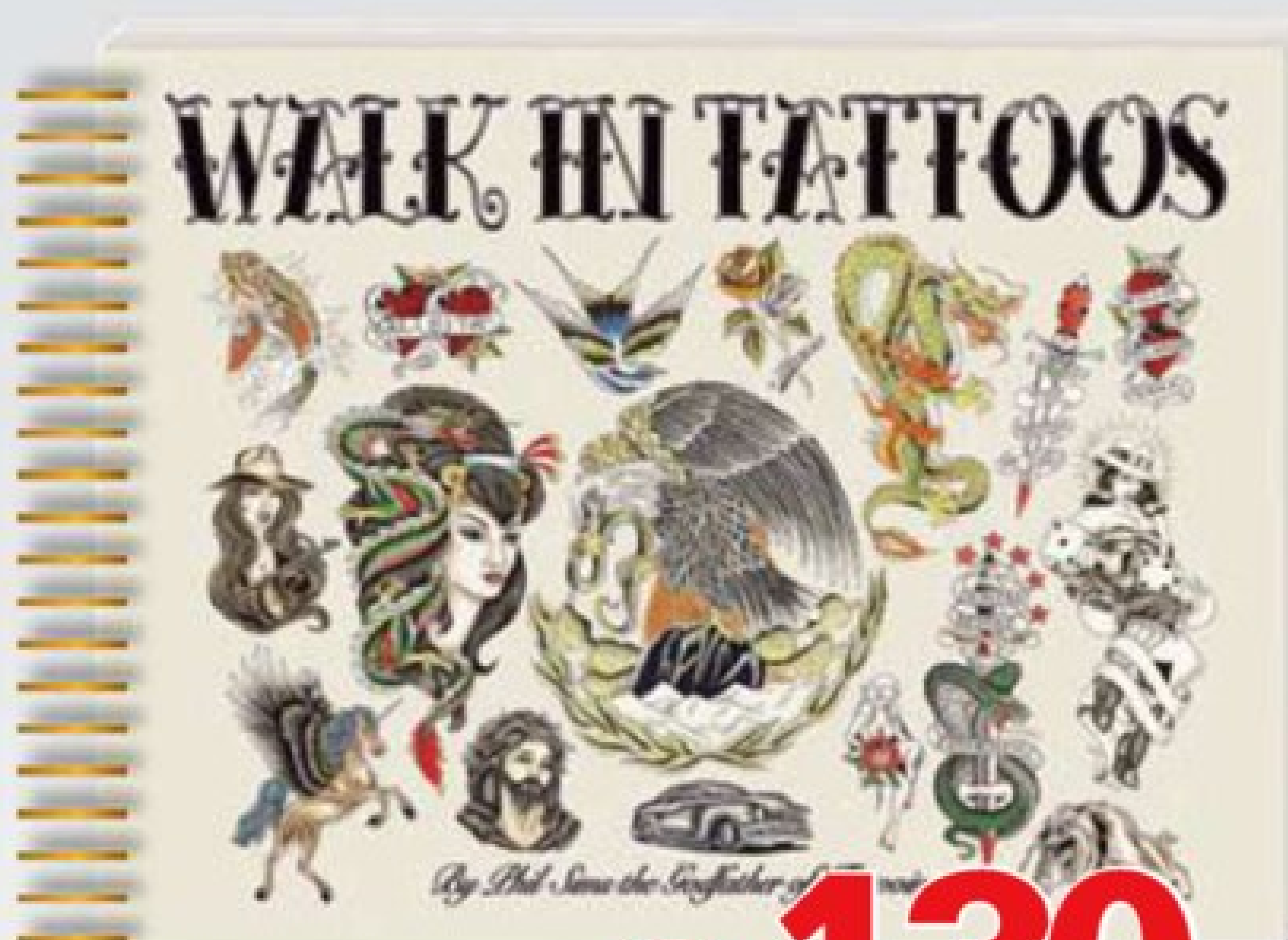
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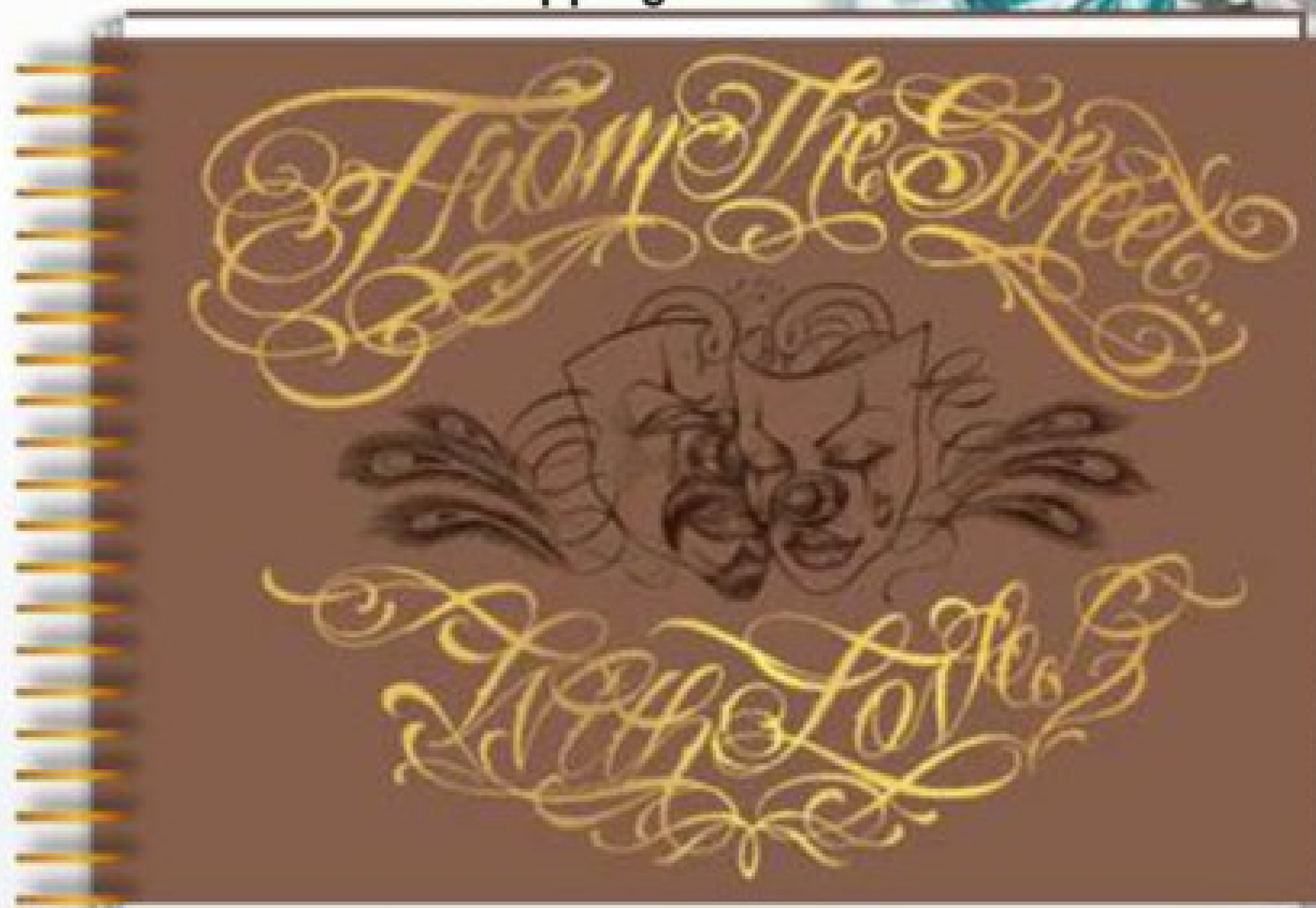


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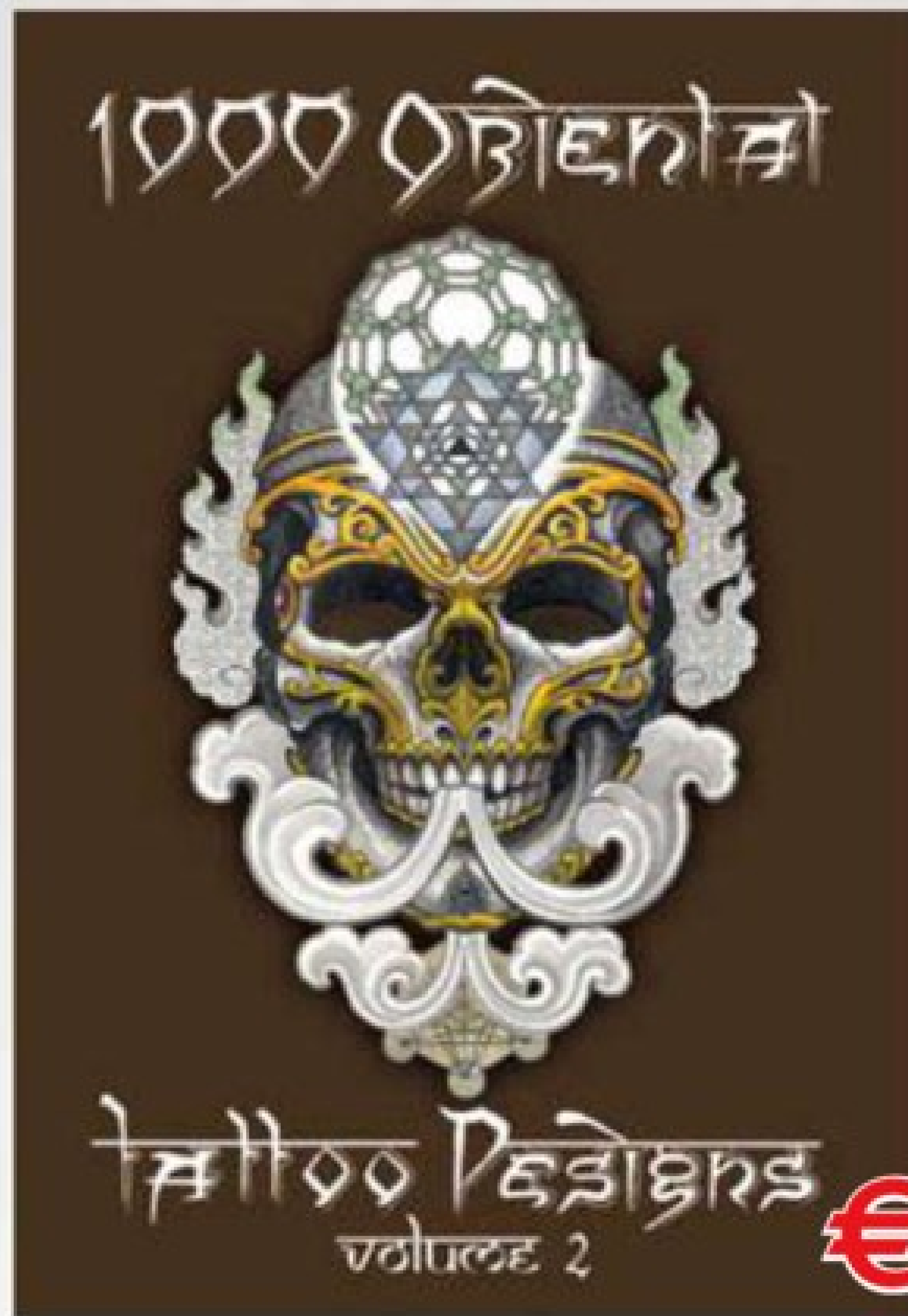
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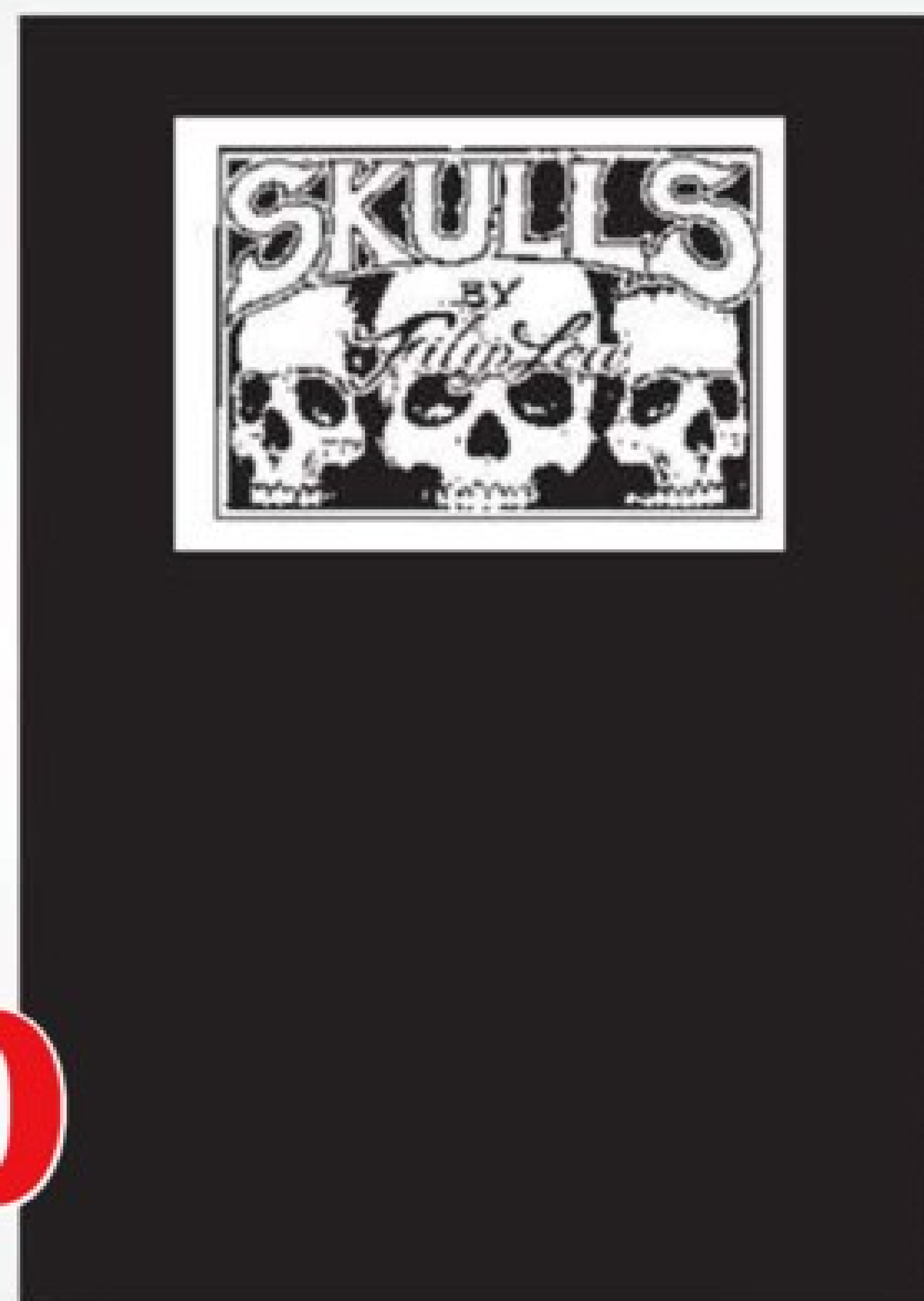
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TATTOOWAY



VE



Theo Mindell, Spyder Murphy's, San Rafael, USA



Nick Baxter, Nick Baxter Tattoo, Houston, USA



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① Christian Perez
Hope Gallery Tattoo
New Haven, USA

② Davide Andreoli
Italian Rooster
Rho, Italy

③ Gakkin
Harizanmai
Kyoto, Japan

④ Tim Orth
All or Nothing Tattoo
Smyrna, USA





WAVE TATTOOWAVE TATTOOWAVE TATTOOWAVE TATTOOWAVE



⑤ Edu Cerru
O'Reilly Tattoo
Santa Cruz, USA

⑥ Posk
Buena Tinta Tattoo
Mostoles, Spain

⑦ Klem
O'Reilly's Tattoo
Santa Cruz, USA

⑧ Xoil
Tattoo Culture
NYC, USA

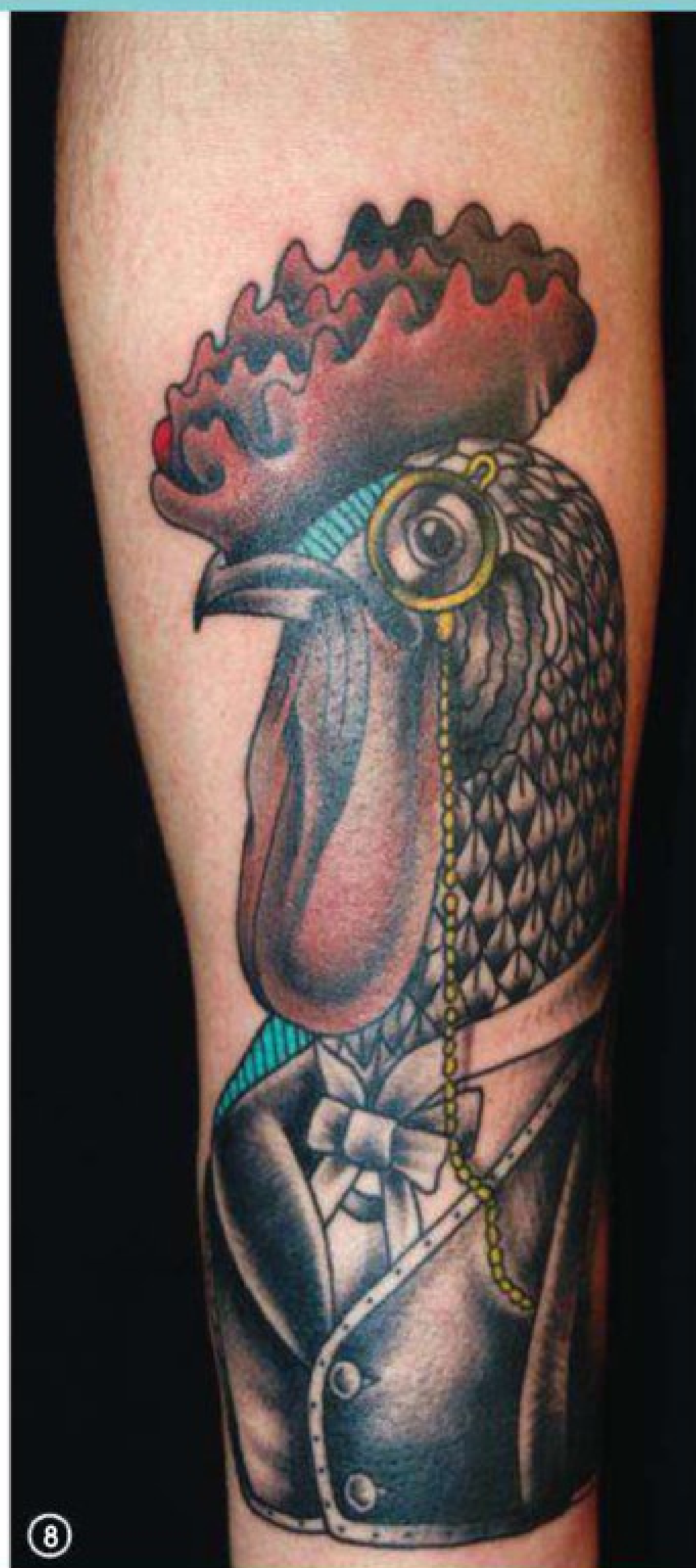


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- ① Ivana Belakova
Bondi Ink
Sydney, Australia
- ② Jason Vaughn
Pioneer Tattoo
Chicago, USA
- ③ Germana Pavan
Pink PantherTattoo
Aviano, Italy
- ④ Betty
Nico Tattoo
Athens, Greece
- ⑤ Jason Schroder
Incognito Tattoo
Los Angeles, USA
- ⑥ Hexa
Precious Tattoo
Tampere, Finland



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Santa Dolores
Madrid, Spain

8 Pietro Sedda
The Saint Mariner
Milan, Italy

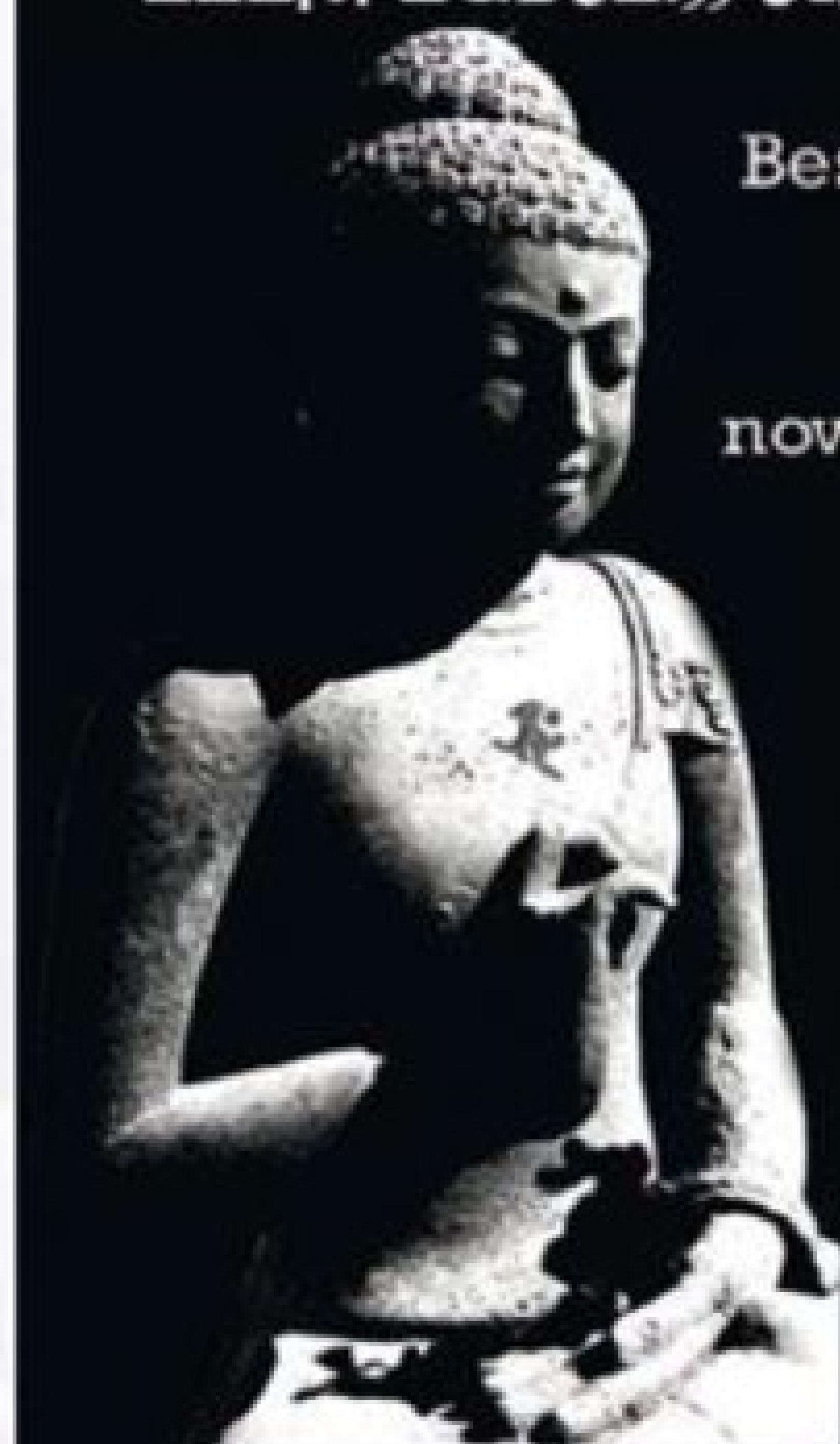
9 Tim Biedron
Pioneer Tattoo
Chicago, USA

10 Randy Engelhard
Heaven of Colours
Zwickau, Germany

11 Eva Schatz
Naked Trust
Salzburg, Austria

12 Paul Dobleman
Spyder Murphy's
San Rafael, USA

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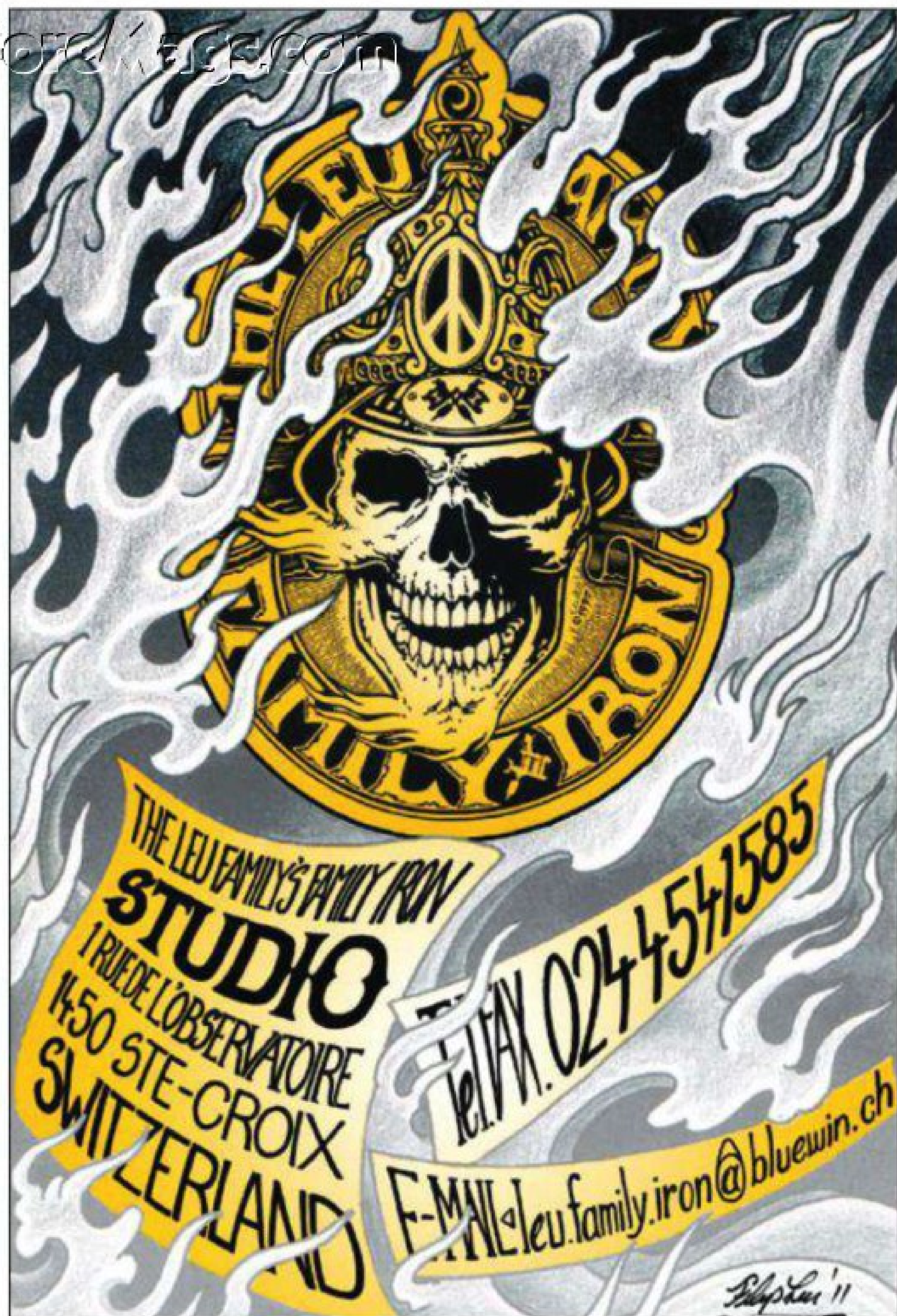
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